

## Rabin survives no-confidence motions

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's two-week-old government Monday easily survived its first challenge, five no-confidence motions submitted in parliament to protest curbs on Jewish settlement in the occupied lands and moves to push peace talks forward. The 120-member parliament rejected the motions with a vote of 59-48, after four-and-a-half hours of debate. No-confidence motions are a common tool in Israeli politics, but it was unusual to have such a vote so soon after the formation of a new government. "We had thought about waiting 100 days, maybe even more, to allow the government to formulate its policy," legislator Moshe Katzav of the right-wing Likud faction of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the parliament. "But this government didn't hold one serious debate on these issues... and instead it hurried to make political concessions, and this gave us a good reason to express no confidence," Mr. Katzav said. Added Rehavam Zeevi of the far-right Mofdet Party: "This government ordered the stop of settlement construction in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza... this government is surrendering to Washington as if we were an American protectorate."

قراحتات



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## Lebanese premier visits France

PARIS (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh and a ministerial team arrived in Paris on Monday, seeking aid to strengthen the army and rebuild a country devastated by civil war. Mr. Solh, along with Defence Minister Michel Al Murr, Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, Finance Minister Asaad Diab and Al Fadi Chalal, head of the government war reconstruction agency, were met at Orly airport by Secretary of State for Francophone Affairs Catherine Tasca, officials said. France, which governed Lebanon from 1920 until independence in 1943, said last Monday that it hoped the general elections, Lebanon's first in 20 years, would take place under conditions which made their results credible. The backed government set dates on Friday for three rounds of voting in August and September before Syrian troops are due to leave Beirut and other areas for eastern Lebanon.

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## Family appeals for release of Obeid

JIBSHEET, Lebanon (R) — The children of Hizbollah (Party of God) cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid urged humanitarian groups on Monday to secure his release from an Israeli jail where he has been held for three years. "To all humanitarian organisations, we urge you to work for a solution to release our father. We appeal to your conscience to return him back to us as you did for the Western hostages," said a statement signed by Obeid's four children. "We ask you to act quickly to put an end to this humanitarian case... we want to live with our father the way children of the world do," it added. Israeli commanders stormed Sheikh Obeid's home in the southern Lebanese village of Jibsheet and abducted him and two aides — Ahmad Obeid and Hashem Fahs — on July 28, 1989.

## Iran turns back graffiti train

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has turned back a Pakistani passenger train at the border because of anti-Shiite graffiti scribbled on the wagons by a rival sect. Border guards at Zahedan in southeast Iran, turned back the train on Saturday "because of anti-Islamic slogans scribbled inside and outside the wagons by elements of the Wahhabite sect," the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. The passengers were sent by bus to their destinations, mostly Muslim shrines around Iran, it said. The agency quoted an "informed source" as saying Iran had decided to allow only graffiti-free trains inside its borders after complaining to Pakistan about the problem several times in recent months.

## 'Up to 400 died trying to flee East Germany'

BONN (AP) — Investigators suspect at least 350 people — twice the number previously documented — died trying to escape from communist East Germany, a top official said Monday. The actual number of border deaths could reach 400, said Manfred Kittlaus, head of a special Berlin police unit that is investigating crimes by East Germany's Stalinist leaders. German authorities have documented 187 cases of people who died trying to escape over the Berlin Wall or across the former border. Most were shot by communist border guards. Some were ripped apart by land mines. Others drowned while trying to swim across the Baltic Sea to West Germany.

## 2 policemen killed in south Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Muslim extremists on Monday shot and killed two policemen guarding a government building in a town in southern Egypt that has witnessed an upsurge in extremist violence in recent months, police said. Police official said the attack occurred in Dairut, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. The assailants fired shots from a car, killing the two guards on the spot. The sentries were stationed at a government rest house where officials from other regions stay while they are on official business. Police said the assailants fled the scene. This was the second attack in three days involving militants in Dairut. On Saturday, a sentry guarding a church in the town was shot and wounded. The assailants, who also escaped, were suspected extremists. In May, 13 Christian were killed by Muslim extremists in a row over property ownership.

## SAS suspends Prague flights over Kurds

PRAGUE (R) — Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) has suspended flights between Prague and Copenhagen until diplomats decide which country will accept 15 Iraqi Kurdish refugees stranded at Prague airport, the airline said Monday. Flights were suspended after Czechoslovak authorities on Saturday refused to clear a SAS flight unless its crew flew the 13 Kurds back to Copenhagen. "The decision to suspend our flights is a purely economic one," SAS' Czechoslovak director Jiri Matousek told Reuters.

# Uproar in House as debate begins on 'corruption' findings

Deliberations to resume next week

By Narmeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate broke out Monday at the Lower House of Parliament as deputies discussed whether to indict former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former ministers Mahmoud Hawamdeh (public works) and Hanna Oudeh (finance) on charges of alleged misuse of authority which led to mismanagement of public funds in a multi-million dollar highway construction contract. The four-hour session ended without any clear result and the discussions will continue next Monday. The House's Investigations Committee presented the House with a report of its findings on the three officials' alleged involvement in contracting an Indian company to construct a concrete highway linking Al Jafr with Al Azraq at a cost of JD35 million in 1987. The panel, especially established to investigate cases of corruption in the Kingdom, argued that the construction of the highway with concrete rather than asphalt cost the Kingdom an additional JD20 million and that there was enough ground to suspect corruption in this case. In its report, the committee tries to establish, through documents and affidavits from the

suspects and other witnesses, that Mr. Hawamdeh went against the recommendations of several private and public committees to use asphalt in the construction of the highway rather than concrete and that Mr. Rifai and Mr. Oudeh colluded with him. The committee recommended that the House indict the three officials and refer them to a special court chaired by the speaker of the Upper House for trial.

The court, known as the Higher Council, has among its members five senior judges and three senators.

According to the Constitution, former as well as current ministers can be accused by the Lower House but can only be referred to trial by a two-thirds majority of the House.

Jerash Deputy Hussein Mjalli, who is a member of the committee, rejected the panel's findings as circumstantial evidence and charged that "there are no components to substantiate a crime, and since there is no material evidence against the persons named in this case, I see no grounds for indictment."

Mr. Mjalli was later blasted by deputies who maintained that this parliament was elected to weed out corruption in official circles and that "personal allegiances"

should not interfere when the interests of the nation are being discussed.

"It has become apparent to me after hearing the defence speech (from Mr. Mjalli) and the legal tactics which was read to us that the office boys in the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Public Works are the ones responsible for the financial problems and administrative corruption which we were briefed on by the committee," Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Yusef Al Athem reported sarcastically.

Debate turned more personal as opponents of the committee's recommendation charged that members of the committee were acting against a background of personal vendettas and settling old accounts.

"I swear that personal vendettas and settling accounts are behind such a case," Deputy Abdulhah Zureiqat told the House. "I am very surprised by the selectivity some of us have in choosing dangerous cases which touch directly the lives of many people and ignoring those which are even more dangerous," Mr. Zureiqat said. "Let us put our fear of God above all our vendettas and conflicts."

Deputy Mohammad Faris (Continued on page 5)

## Tension high in Algeria; Boudiaf guards arrested

ALGIERS (AP) — Tension between the government and Islamic fundamentalists continued to smoulder Monday as a homemade bomb exploded near a police station in the Algiers neighbourhood of Belcourt.

Though no one claimed responsibility for the bombing, it bore the hallmarks of a wave of attacks by fundamentalists on police and troops in retaliation for a harsh crackdown on their movement.

No one was injured in the bombing, which occurred in one of the capital's fundamentalist strongholds. The attack followed a bombing early Saturday in Al Khroub, eastern Algeria, that left three people dead and several others injured.

Bombs exploded last week at a movie theater in an Algiers suburb and at the capital's main post office. No casualties were reported.

The Front for Socialist Forces, a democratic opposition party, said Monday that the attacks show that the campaign to crush

the fundamentalists has failed. "Repression is incapable, by itself, of resolving a problem that is eminently political," a party communiqué said.

State radio reported that 26 people were placed in detention Sunday on unspecified charges in Djelfa, 200 kilometres south of Algiers, after clashes between fundamentalists and police Friday left one person dead and two injured.

The latest bombing followed the arrest of commanders of Algeria's presidential guard and special forces and eight others in connection with last month's assassination of Mohammed Boudiaf, head of the ruling High State Council.

A member of Mr. Boudiaf's guard already had been arrested as the suspected assassin.

Pro-government human-rights leader Rezag Bara, head of a commission investigating the killing, said in a report submitted to the government Saturday that he doubted claims by the suspect that he acted alone.

## Iran offers financial and technical help to Sudan

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran will provide technical and financial assistance for oil exploration in Sudan, Tehran Radio reported Monday.

A Sudanese delegation, headed by Suleyman Mohammad Suleyman, a member of his country's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and planning, was in Tehran to boost ties between the two countries.

Oil-rich Iran has found impoverished Sudan to be fertile ground for its fundamentalist Islamic revolution.

Western intelligence agencies have said Tehran is providing training for Sudan's armed forces, and that it intends to use Khartoum as a base for activities aimed at exporting its revolution to other parts of Africa.

The Iranians have denied those claims.

Tehran Radio said Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, met with Mr. Rahim and Mr. Suleyman Monday, and expressed his country's readiness to help Sudan in oil exploration and drilling.

He said an Iranian technical team had found recoverable oil

reserves in Sudan, adding that a joint team should review the legal and technical aspects, and estimate the financial resources needed for further work.

Mr. Hamdi said that up to 110 million barrels of recoverable oil reserves had been found in Sudan, and that one well now in operation was pumping 2,000 barrels of oil per day. That volume could be increased by drilling more wells, he said.

Mr. Rahim and Mr. Suleyman met with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday, and delivered a message from Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

Tehran's assistance to Sudan has gone hand-in-hand with its efforts to broaden its ideological power base there.

Iran began shifting its attention to Sudan ever since its power began to wane in Lebanon, its strongest overseas power base.

Lebanon has regained a semblance of normalcy ever since the end of its 15-year civil war in October 1990.

Mr. Suleyman, who is also Sudan's minister of culture, met

## Israel admits army killed 4-year-old in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army said that soldiers shot and killed a four-year-old Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday by mistake.

An army investigation found that soldiers at a roadblock in Khan Yunis who fired at a car they thought was carrying wanted Palestinian activists hit Naim Abu Amouna, who was travelling with his father.

The report said the boy's father had turned into a side street to avoid the roadblock because he was afraid he would be fined for not carrying a driver's license and car insurance papers.

An investigation into the incident revealed that the three soldiers — who are now under suspension — had not followed military shooting regulations, the army said, expressing regret at the boy's death.

One soldier fired in the air, then at the car's tyres. The two other soldiers then also opened fire, thinking the car's passengers were armed Palestinians, an army statement said.

The senior Amouna managed to escape the gunfire, but later his son was brought to a hospital shot fatally in the head and back.

The soldiers involved had received a tip that a car of the same description was carrying wanted Palestinian activists, the army said.

An investigation by the Gaza commander found that the soldiers had deviated from shooting orders and he asked that their suspension be upheld, the army said. Military police will continue investigation of the incident, it added.

After the incident Friday in Khan Yunis, the army reported masked men fired at an army lookout in the town. Commanders put the 85,000 residents of Khan Yunis and a neighbouring refugee camp under curfew, it said.

Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed 920 Palestinians during the almost five-year-old uprising. Ninety-three Israelis and 19 tourists have also been killed in the violence.

## Israel continues work on 10,000 housing units in occupied lands

AMMAN (I.T.) — While the Israeli government continues to talk about a "housing freeze," figures released by the Israeli housing ministry reveals that the bulk of settlement construction under in the occupied territories, the Jerusalem Post reported Monday.

Construction of 10,000 housing units as part of "state-sponsored" projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue, according to the Post, which cited the ministry figures.

The figures do not include some 1,600 housing units in what Israel calls the "greater Jerusalem" area and another 8,700 elsewhere in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the newspaper reported.

Also excluded from the figures are over 1,000 housing units under construction in the occupied territories as part of a "build your own home" project, which is not directly affected by the so-called freeze.

Members of the cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, including Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, have repeatedly said that the government had informed the U.S. administration that while it would extensively freeze construction in the occupied territories, it was also going ahead with work on at least 10,000 housing units there, the Post said.

Following are extracts from the Post report: Mr. Shohat again told reporters at a news conference Sunday that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was told of Israel's housing plans in the occupied territories during his visit last week.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer reviewed the government's housing plans in the occupied territories with settlement leaders, presenting them figures showing settlement activity was far from being halted.

What will be stopped, according to Mr. Ben-Eliezer, is work on some 6,600 units, the majority not yet under construction.

He assured the settler leaders that the government had no intention of "drying up" Jewish "towns" in the occupied territories, according to a statement released by the ministry after the meeting.

"It is important to us that the peace process advances," Mr. Ben-Eliezer said. "But that does not contradict our responsibility for the children and thousands of settlers..."

Later in the day, Mr. Ben-Eliezer and Mr. Shohat stressed the government's continued effort to freeze construction in the occupied territories and in areas inside the "green line" where state-funded housing already stands empty.

## U.S., Britain keep up pressure on Iraq despite compromise

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and Britain increased military pressure on Iraq, despite settlement of the latest confrontation between Baghdad and the United Nations.

Under threat of a U.S.-led military attack, Iraq Sunday agreed to permit U.N. weapons inspectors to search the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad.

U.N. experts headed for the region Monday to begin the new inspection.

While Baghdad's announced compliance appears to lessen the chances of renewed military confrontation, President George Bush said that Iraq's violation of other Gulf war ceasefire terms "continues in other important areas."

"We have just got to look ahead now and see that other inspections go forward and that (Iraq) complies with these resolutions," Mr. Bush said in Washington on Sunday after agreement was reached at the

United Nations. To obtain Iraqi compliance, the United Nations agreed to change the composition of the inspection team so it is predominantly European.

American experts — whom Iraq has accused of spying — will remain outside the building, which U.N. inspectors believe contains documents and other material on Iraq's missile, chemical, biological and nuclear programmes.

U.S. defence officials said the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy cut short a port visit to the Virgin Islands on Sunday and resumed advanced exercises in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic prior to expected deployment to the Mediterranean.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, refused to say when the ship might join the U.S. carrier Saratoga, already in the Mediterranean. The U.S. carrier Independence is also in the Gulf south of Iraq.

A senior Bush administration official said, meanwhile, that President Bush was expected to meet in Washington Monday night with his top national security advisers on the situation in Iraq. It would be the third such top-level meeting in a week.

The official told reporters travelling with Mr. Bush on a campaign trip to Michigan and Wisconsin the United Nations was likely to increase pressure on Iraq.

Mr. Bush on Sunday called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "merchant of death" and said he had backed down again in his defiance of ceasefire agreements. Mr. Bush promised to keep the pressure on.

Britain vowed Monday to keep up pressure on Iraq.

A Foreign Office spokesman told reporters in reply to questions that Iraq had been progressively forced down over the issue

(Continued on page 5)

## Baghdad punishes profiteers

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iraqi government has been punishing businessmen for profiteering from the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, a Baghdad newspaper said Monday.

"Measures taken by the government against some traders who manipulate the people's food were taken, to put an end to greed displayed by those who lost their patriotism and sense of responsibility," Al Thawra newspaper said.

The paper, the organ of the ruling Baath Party, said traders who have sharply raised prices "have joined the enemy and tried to plunder people's foodstuffs and exploit Iraq's present circumstances resulting from the unjust blockade."

Al Thawra, in a report carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), did not specify the punishment for the businessmen, who have been warned for months about profiteering.

In a speech Sunday, President Saddam Hussein accused certain businessmen of "collaborating with the enemy." And implied some may have been executed by hanging.

He said some traders were "fleecing the people."

However, an Iraqi businessman who returned to Amman, on Sunday said there had been no executions. The businessman, speaking anonymously, said some prison sentences were handed out, but he speculated the death threats were intended to frighten would-be profiteers.

Iraqis rushed to buy foodstuffs when the confrontation with the U.N. over weapons inspections appeared recently to be heading towards another war.

Prices of basic foodstuffs such as rice, wheat flour and cooking oil more than doubled.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Wathban Ibrahim Al Takriti warned the security forces would arrest and punish traders found to

be raising prices unjustifiably.

## Oil refining

Iraq has restored its oil refining capability to 80 per cent of its capacity before the Gulf war, an industry newsletter says.

The report in the July 20 edition of Petroleum International Weekly (PIW), published in New York, said that seven plants were in operation and were producing one-half million barrels a day.

The newsletter said Iraq apparently had 50,000 barrels per day available for export although U.N. sanctions prohibit it from exporting oil.

It said its reporter, Anne-Marie Joanson, spent nearly three weeks in Iraq, visiting most of the major oil facilities.

The newsletter said Iraq's refining capacity was up to 690,000 barrels per day in 1991 before the massive bombardment by the U.S.-led coalition.

## Libyan paper blasts Arab mediators

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan newspaper Monday charged that Arab mediators "fabricate falsehoods" and urged direct talks with the United States, Britain and France to resolve Libya's conflict with the West.

Al Zahf Al Akhdar's article was carried by Libya's official news agency JANA and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The newspaper, a weekly, caused surprise last month when it strongly criticised Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for his pan-Arab views and urged improved relations with the West.

Foreign diplomats and Libyan observers at the time said the attacks, in series of special editions for a week, were inspired by Colonel Qadhafi himself to prepare for steering away from his

radical pro-Arab, anti-Western stand. The newspaper is run by the Revolutionary Committees, a loose security apparatus responsible for spreading Col. Qadhafi's ideology.

Monday's article went further in specifically rejecting Arab mediation efforts to reconcile Libya with the West. There was no way of telling whether the article presaged a dumping of Arab mediation or was just a continuation of anti-Arab rhetoric.

"The Arab mediators... are liars; they fabricate falsehoods... and defame our image in the eyes of the (Western) states," Zahf Al Akhdar said.

"Let us go and negotiate directly with the USA, Britain and France, let us reach a deal with them ourselves."

"These are civilised states that understand the law."

Libya has been under international arms, arms and diplomatic sanctions since April 15 for refusing to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, killing 270 people.

The Arab League has formed a seven-nation mediation committee to help resolve Tripoli's dispute with the West over the bombing. The committee includes Egypt, Syria and Morocco.

Libya has accepted a U.N. Security Council demand that it end its support of "terrorist" organisations. U.N. officials were reported negotiating with Libya on arrangements for international inspection teams to ascertain that the country no longer harbours "terrorist" bases.

## Arabs to test Israel's peace intentions

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Arab states say they want Israel to prove it is serious about peace when the Middle East talks resume in Washington next month.

"If they (the Israelis) claim that they are now positive regarding the peace process they should show us their positions inside the negotiations rooms," said Faysel Tarawneh, Jordan's senior delegate to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Inside the rooms one will be able to sense the whole thing and that is why we have said we want the talks to resume as soon as possible," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We want proof from the Israelis that they will implement the terms of reference of this peace process and that they are sincere in achieving a comprehensive settlement," Haider Abdul Staffi, the Palestinian chief negotiator, told reporters in Amman on Sunday night.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said on Saturday the United States would like to see the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations resume in Washington on Aug. 10.

Syria said on Sunday it would go to the talks and other Arab delegations were expected to participate as well.

But Israel said on Monday the date for resuming the talks would not be set before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meets U.S. President George Bush in Washington in the second week of August.

It will be Mr. Rabin's first meeting with Mr. Bush since Mr. Rabin took office this month.

"The schedule of the peace talks will be determined during or after Prime Minister Rabin's visit to the United States," his spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said in occupied Jerusalem.

"We would like to have it as early as possible," he said.

Mr. Rabin has vowed to accelerate U.S.-backed peace moves.

But foreign ministers of Arab countries bordering Israel said after two days of talks in Damascus last week that they saw no substantial change in the policies of Mr. Rabin after the defeated hardline Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir in elections last month.

"There is a false conviction that Rabin came up with a new peace initiative," Mr. Tarawneh said.

"But if we examine carefully what he said in his official speeches Rabin did not commit himself to the terms of reference of the peace process (U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338) or to halting settlements and did not refer to the limits of Palestinian autonomy," he added.

The two resolutions, which call on Israel to return Arab lands it captured in 1967 in return for Arab peace guarantees, form the basis of the peace process.

Mr. Rabin hopes to secure \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees when he meets Mr. Bush.

Israeli officials expect the talks could resume in Washington in late August.

The talks were to have taken place in Rome, but U.S. officials said privately that Italian officials doubted they could accommodate the continuous negotiations envisaged by Mr. Rabin's government.

Israeli officials would still like to move the talks closer to the Middle East.



# Middle East Watch slams Egypt for torture in prison

CAIRO (AP) — A U.S.-based human rights organisation Monday accused Egyptian authorities of torturing political prisoners and illegally detaining people for long periods without charge.

Middle East Watch released a 200-page report entitled "Behind Closed Doors: Torture and Detention in Egypt" during a news conference at a Cairo hotel. The report urged the U.S. and European governments to warn Egypt that it will be halted unless torture and prolonged arbitrary detention end.

Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel. It gets \$2.1 billion in economic and military aid annually.

The report blamed State Security Investigation (SSI), elite force of the Interior Ministry in charge of internal security, for torturing political detainees and holding people for up to two years without due process.

The document included specific cases in which torture victims detail harrowing experiences.

The report traced use of torture against political dissenters to the days of President Jamal Abdul Nasser, who overthrew the monarchy in 1952. Mr. Abdul Nasser, who died in 1970, targeted the Muslim Brotherhood and communists. But it said that under President Anwar Sadat, who ruled from 1970 until his assassination by Muslim extremists in 1981, the practice of torture decreased considerably.

"But Egyptians from various political tendencies contend that since Hosni Mubarak assumed the presidency... the internal security apparatus, projecting itself as the defender of the state against a perceived Islamist threat, has resurrected an exceedingly heavy hand," the report said.

Kenneth Roth, deputy director of Human Rights Watch, parent organisation of Middle East Watch, said that his group gave the Egyptian government a copy of the report six weeks and asked for a response, but there has been none.

Noting that Cairo authorities previously had denied torture charges, Mr. Roth said senior Egyptian officials ignored requests from his group for meetings.

Asked for reaction on Monday, Galal Al Shami, the Interior Ministry spokesman said: "We have not prepared a comment yet."

A decade-old police crackdown on Muslim extremists has been stepped up in the last five months because of a spate of extremist attacks and shootouts with police in which 46 people have died. More than a thousand people have been rounded up since March.

The Middle East Watch report said the government's main targets are Muslim extremist groups. Torture is used against them to extract information or to punish them, the document said.

But it contended that many innocent Egyptians also are arrested and tortured because "security force dragnets are so wide that arbitrary arrests occur."

The emergency law, in force since Mr. Sadat's slaying, gives police wide powers, including the right to detain individuals for 45 days without charge.

The document said the government was going even further, using bureaucratic loopholes to renew detentions.

It charged that torture of prisoners had been systematic and practised with full knowledge of authorities.

"The methods of torture in

Egypt are rigorous yet predictable, indicating that a system appears to be in place to train SSI personnel in torture techniques and that the use of torture is directed and supervised by officers of the SSI," it said.

The report said that torture usually occurs in SSI offices, where prisoners are held incommunicado, no records are kept and defence lawyers are barred.

"In several cases of incommunicado detention... officials claimed that detainees had not been arrested and detained at a time when in fact they were in the custody of security forces... by eliminating a sense of accountability, this practice invites torture," the report said.

Victims are always blindfolded so they do not know where they are and cannot identify their torturers, the report said, and are totally or partially stripped of their clothes.

Torture methods include electric shocks, kicking and beatings with hard objects, it said. Prisoners sometimes are suspended by the wrists from bars.

Psychological torture is also applied by threats to torture or kill family members and exposure to screams which some victims think are taped.

Among specific cases cited by the report was that of Mohamed Mandour, an Egyptian doctor who heads the psychiatric unit at Cairo's Palestine Hospital. He was detained for 16 days in February 1991 at the height of the Gulf war because authorities suspected him of being an agent of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

For 10 days during his detention at SSI headquarters in Cairo, Dr. Mandour was administered electric shocks all over his body, including his genitals.

## U.N. says bombs failed to destroy Iraqi arms

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A top U.N. official said on Sunday allied bombing of Iraq during the Gulf war did not "fundamentally" achieve one of its main aims of destroying Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

But Rolf Ekeus, chairman of a U.N. commission set up to find and demolish the weapons, said work by his teams since the war had blunted Iraq's offensive capability to such an extent that it was no longer "a threat to its neighbours through intimidation and terror."

Mr. Ekeus told a press conference the threat of military action helped to bring about an agreement on Sunday which allowed U.N. inspectors to resume a search of the Iraqi agriculture ministry after a 21-day standoff.

But he said that, with all respect to the armed forces, they did not "fundamentally" destroy dangerous weapons during the Gulf war.

"I would like to say that arms control has demonstrated that it is the way to destroy weapons and not through bombing and attacks," he said.

"Hardly any missile, Scud missile, was destroyed through attacks," he said. "The large amount of chemical weapons were not destroyed through bombing. Nothing of the research activities were really destroyed in the nuclear area."

Mr. Ekeus said he believed, however, that his teams had uncovered most of Iraq's dangerous weapons, particularly ballistic missiles.

"There may be a couple or a few left but it's fundamentally all of them, most of them have been found and destroyed," he said.

"Even more important, the production capabilities — a large number of factories and buildings have been identified and destroyed, exploded and destroyed and cut to pieces. And an enormous amount, thousands of equipment and pieces of equipment, have been destroyed," he added.

Mr. Ekeus, who carries the title of ambassador as Sweden's long-time delegate to the Geneva disarmament conference, said Iraq was no longer a "threat to its neighbours" through intimidation and terror.

## Rescue team recovers 45 Somalis drowned in Red Sea

DJIBOUTI (R) — Forty-five Somalis fleeing civil strife and famine drowned when their crowded dhow sank in rough seas at the weekend off Djibouti, witnesses said.

A report on Sunday said as many as 60 may have died.

In Keoya, the government negotiated on Monday with U.N. officials over a freighter refused permission to dock because it carries some 300 Somalis.

The incidents, one in the country bordering Somalia on the north and the other on the south, highlighted the plight of hundreds of thousands of Somalis fleeing abroad for food and security after months of civil war.

Witnesses said a French military rescue team recovered 45 bodies from the dhow and handed them over to Djibouti govern-

ment officials late on Sunday. Earlier reports said as many as 60 may have died.

Five survivors, including a woman, were rescued in a 10-hour air and sea search mounted after seven others were washed ashore on Mousha Island, in the Red Sea off northern Djibouti.

Officials said the dead included small traders and a number of Somali manual job seekers and masons searching for better paying jobs in Yemen.

Somalis are fleeing for security because of the collapse of their country into clan fighting and anarchy aggravated by the worst drought in 100 years.

One in six Somalis has left the country to escape more than a year of civil strife following the overthrow of President Moham-

mad Siad Barre.

The rebels who toppled him turned on each other in clan fighting that raged until a precarious ceasefire in March. Sporadic clashes still occur and food aid and medicine are frequently looted by Somali gunmen.

In Kenya, port sources say 283 Somali refugees have been marooned off the coast in the Jamaican-registered freighter Samaa-1 since Wednesday.

The Nairobi government has refused to allow the ship to dock saying it has no more room for fugitives from its northern neighbour. It already shelters more than half a million.

"They are desperate for water and we are getting food to them and talking to the government. I hope to have a solution today,"

Panos Mourtzis, spokesman for the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Reuters in Nairobi.

Last month the Yemeni authorities tried to turn back a boatload of Somali refugees desperate with hunger and thirst until they were allowed to dock following international outcry. More than 150 of those aboard died.

Shipping sources said the dhow had travelled from the Somali capital, Mogadisho, and left Djibouti on Friday, heading for Yemen.

Two French helicopters, a reconnaissance aircraft and patrol boats which took part in the search operation off Djibouti, a former French colony, were expected to abandon the search on Monday, officials said.

## Hizbollah evacuates its largest base in Lebanon

BAALBEK, Lebanon (R) — Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militants began evacuating their largest base in Lebanon on Monday before handing it over to the Lebanese army.

Trucks loaded with furniture and belongings left the Sheikh Abdullah barracks in the ancient town of Baalbek, 70 kilometres east of Beirut, in eastern Lebanon's Syrian-policed Bekaa Valley.

"Hizbollah men are leaving the barracks and the army will move in when they finish evacuating," Colonel Hussein Al Laqis, head of Lebanese army intelligence in the Bekaa, told Reuters.

"I think everything will be over in the coming few days."

The army last Friday began seizing government buildings taken by militias during 15 years of civil war in a campaign to tighten security before Lebanon's

first general elections in 20 years.

Troops seized the Beirut headquarters of the Lebanese Forces (LF), which leads Christian opposition to the elections, on Friday and have retained a string of other state properties since then.

Hussein Musawi, a Hizbollah leader, said his group was considering giving the former Lebanese army barracks back to the military every soon. "There should be no problem," he added.

The barracks, flying Iranian and Hizbollah flags, are believed to have been one of several places where Iranian-backed militants held Western hostages in Lebanon's decade-long hostage crisis that ended last month.

Security sources said Hizbollah began moving heavy weapons from the barracks in April to other bases in the Bekaa and the south, where pro-Iranian guerril-

las are fighting to force Israeli troops out of a "security zone" which was set up in 1985.

They said Hizbollah was expected to hand back to the army some artillery and 12 U.S.-made armoured troop carriers which were in the sprawling barracks when militants seized it in 1983.

The 200,000-square-metre compound was the headquarters for Iranian Revolutionary Guards sent to Lebanon to train Hizbollah guerrillas after the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Guards refused to allow journalists into the barracks on Monday and it was unclear if the several hundred Revolutionary Guards still stationed in Lebanon were inside or had already left.

Built in 1970 as the largest army base in Lebanon, the Sheikh Abdullah barracks consist of 15 buildings including a hospital, academy, prison and arms and

ammunition depots.

Leftist groups captured the compound in 1975 when the civil war broke but the army retook it two years later after about 30,000 Syrian troops entered Lebanon to stop the fighting.

Hizbollah seized the tree-lined barracks in 1983 and added a mosque and huge underground shelters for protection during Israeli air raids, which destroyed two buildings in 1984.

French planes hit the base overlooking Roman ruins in Baalbek in 1983 in retaliation for a suicide bomb attack on a French position in Beirut that killed 58 paratroopers on Oct. 13, 1983.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (Holy War) said it carried out that attack and a second suicide bombing within minutes that flattened the U.S. marine barracks near Beirut airport and killed 241 U.S. servicemen.

## Hawatmeh urges Arabs to raise stakes

ALGIERS (R) — Hardline Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmeh has urged Arab states and the Palestinians to raise the stakes in peace negotiations with Israel's new government.

Mr. Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said the Palestinians should have the right to include representatives from Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora in their negotiating team.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership would meet the Palestinian negotiators

led by Haider Abdul Shafi in Tunis on Monday to adopt a new strategy for the expected resumption of peace negotiations in Washington on Aug. 10, he added.

Mr. Hawatmeh said it was not logical that the "negotiating ceiling" should remain the same after the defeat of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir by Yitzhak Rabin and his Labour Party.

"As the Israeli voter has turned his back on Shamir's policies, the Arab and Palestinian negotiators

must raise the stakes at least to the same level as that of the new majority of Israeli society," he told a news conference Sunday.

Mr. Hawatmeh said the pro-Rabin majority in Israel favoured a Palestinian state and direct dialogue with the PLO in contrast to the former government.

"This is why the PLO leadership insists on a new global and official formation of the Palestinian negotiating team grouping representatives of Jerusalem, the diaspora, the West Bank and Gaza."

## Party named after Abdul Nasser struggles for support

CAIRO (AP) — Tens of thousands of Egyptians turned out when the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser called rallies, but a new political party named for him is lucky to attract 500.

The Arab Democratic Nasserite Party was born a few months before the 40th anniversary of Mr. Abdul Nasser's revolution, which overthrew the monarchy July 23, 1952 and began a turbulent era of socialism and pan-Arabism under his leadership.

It advocates pan-Arab unity and the Abdul Nasser brand of socialism, but is fading those goals hard to sell.

"We are in a very different world from Abdul Nasser's," said Mohamed Sidani, a member of the leftist opposition and a political analyst for the leading newspaper Al-Ahram.

He noted that almost half the 58 million people in Egypt were born either after Mr. Abdul Nasser died in 1970 or during his last few years. "Thus, Nasserism to them is mainly hearsay or reading material," he said.

The new party addresses itself mainly to workers and peasants. Both groups benefited greatly from such Mr. Abdul Nasser measures as providing pensions and

guaranteeing them at least half the seats in all elected bodies, including parliament.

Recent developments in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab World stand in the party's way. The Gulf war shattered Arab unity beyond immediate repair and President Hosni Mubarak has been freeing Egypt from Abdul Nasser-style socialism, which was based on nationalisation and tight control of the economy.

Analysts speculate, however, that the government will look upon the secular Nasserite programme as an additional counterweight to an Islamic fundamentalist trend that has grown in recent years.

Mr. Mubarak's governing National Democratic Party and its main opposition, the right-of-centre Wafd Party and leftist National Progressive Unionists, favour the separation of government and religion.

Diaaeddin Daoud, 66, served in Mr. Abdul Nasser's cabinet and leads the new party.

He and its other aging leaders acknowledge that their platform borrows heavily from ideas popular in the 1950s. They contend that memories of Mr. Abdul Nasser will increase the party's

appeal among older Egyptians and other Arabs.

Mr. Abdul Nasser captivated the Arab World with his nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956. His diplomatic victory despite military defeat in the War that followed and construction of the Aswan High Dam with Soviet help.

At home, Mr. Abdul Nasser was widely popular among the poor. He broke the power of feudal landowners with sweeping agrarian reform and made education free from primary school through university. His defiance of the West and his championing of Third World insurgencies endeared him to millions of Arabs.

He also suffered devastating setbacks, however: Defeat by Israel in the war of 1967, a costly five-year military involvement in Yemen and the breakup of the Egyptian-Syrian union in 1961.

Intellectuals and Muslim activists were alienated by his repressive domestic policies and often brutal security forces.

Still, it was a heady period in Egyptian politics. Even today, cassettes of Mr. Abdul Nasser's searing rhetoric are sold by street vendors and bookstores. Pictures

of him hang in some Cairo cafes and shops and on walls in Beirut, Lebanon.

"There is a certain nostalgia for Abdul Nasser," said Mr. Sidani, the political analyst.

"The question is: Can that be played out into a political movement?"

In the new party's still-unfinished headquarters in downtown Cairo, Mr. Daoud answered yes.

He pledged to revive Mr. Abdul Nasser's "revolution without a plan" with a modern version of Arab nationalism and economic self-sufficiency.

"The party doesn't put forth something new, but presents the old ideas in a developed form," he declared.

In seeking support, the party will emphasise Mr. Abdul Nasser's achievements that remain in effect: Social security and health insurance schemes, free education and the 50 per cent worker and peasant representation, enshrined in the constitution.

Mr. Daoud said his party opposes the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and views Arab unity as vital. The party will run in the 1995 parliamentary elections, he said, to "test its strength."

## Iraq prepared for strikes, Kurds say

ZAKHO (AP) — Before backing down in the arms search standoff in Baghdad, Iraq seriously considered the possibility of Western use of force and took steps to counter it, Iraqi Kurdish officials said Monday.

An American military officer, in this Kurdish city just across the border from Turkey, confirmed an Iraqi buildup near the Kurdish-controlled zone and said the Iraqi air force resumed training flights over the past few months.

Ahmad Shaker, an official of the Kurdistan Front which groups major Kurdish parties, said Baghdad had issued a call last week to all Iraqi men between 25 and 30 years of age to report to conscription stations.

He reported increased military activity at "contact points" and Iraqi shelling recently in the area of Sheikhani, southeast of Dohuk, a provincial centre in the middle of the Kurdish-held area. The Kurdish zone extends from the Turkish border to 190 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Iraqis had also apparently taken some major steps to stabilise their lines along the Kurdish area, withdrawing from some points while massing troops and arms at others.

Officials of the mainstream guerrilla group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said the Iraqis had withdrawn two battalions from Fakki, 12 kilometres south-east of Dohuk, to the Iraqi oil centre of Mosul.

Quoting daily military reports from the front lines, they said the Iraqis cut off the road from Sulaymaniyah, a major city in the Kurdish area, and Kirkuk, the Iraqi oil city.

On Saturday, the Dohuk-

Mosul road was similarly cut, they said.

They said the Iraqis moved tanks and ground-to-air missiles to Karbala, near a Kurdish held Chumchamal on the road to Kirkuk.

Another report from the Kurdistan Front said a big Iraqi force including 30 tanks and 14 artillery pieces had advanced Sunday from Daraman, near Kirkuk, to Altan Kupri, near the unofficial Kurdish "capital" of Erbil, but was pulled back later in the day.

It said three ground-to-ground missiles had been aimed at Erbil and Sulaymaniyah and the Iraqi military served notice that if the allies struck and the Kurds attacked Kirkuk, the missiles would be used.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**Israeli reporter dies in 'hazing' incident**

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli soldier died from injuries suffered while undergoing an air force initiation rite known as "net roquette," newspapers reported Monday. Corporal Amir Melet died Sunday after being hurt during a game played on landing equipment Friday on a base in southern Israel, the army confirmed. The daily Hadashot reported soldiers assigned to the base prove their mettle by being buried into the air by large nets that normally are thrown up to slow planes on landing. The English-language Jerusalem Post called it a "hazing rite." A second soldier was also injured in the incident, which was being investigated, the army said. It said Cpl. Melet was 19 or 20 years old.

**Sudan plane crash blamed on weather**

KHARTOUM (R) — A C-130 military transport plane crashed at Juba, the main city of south Sudan, on Saturday, killing the crew and some passengers, the armed forces reported. Some passengers escaped unhurt, but the numbers who died and survived were not yet known, said a communiqué reported by the official news agency SUNA. It said the plane went off the runway while trying to land at Juba airport in bad weather. Army troops broke a rebel siege around Juba during a successful dry season campaign over the past few months. But the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) says it has gone on the attack around the city since rains began. A military helicopter crashed last week at Liria 60 kilometres east of Juba.

**McDonnell Douglas contracts Israeli firms**

TEL AVIV (AP) — McDonnell Douglas contracted Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) and a second Israeli company to provide services and products for some \$550 million over the next ten years, Israel radios reported Sunday. Israel Radio said IAI would upgrade McDonnell Douglas DC-9 planes and produce parts for the MD-11 passenger plane. The Israeli company Elbit Computers Ltd. would produce navigation systems for the company's T-45 planes, the report added. IAI Director Moshe Keret told army radio that with the world market for both military and civilian products in a slump, "every order like this is welcome and we hope we will have many like it."

**U.S., Kuwait plan joint exercise**

KUWAIT (R) — More than 2,000 U.S. marines will assault a beach in Kuwait next month in the latest joint manoeuvres with the emirate, a U.S. embassy spokesman said on Monday. He said Kuwait, which signed a 10-year defence pact with the United States, had taken part in at least eight exercises with U.S. forces since the end of the Gulf war. Washington, which led allied armies that expelled Iraq from Kuwait, kept troops in the emirate until late last year but does not have units or advisers permanently stationed there. About 250 U.S. military personnel work in rotation at Kuwait's Doha port on pre-position facilities for weapons and personnel designed to save time for a rapid build-up of forces.

JORDAN TELEVISION		JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR		Other Flights (Terminal 2)		MARKET PRICES			
Tel: 77311-19		<p>Agaba ..... 24 / 39</p> <p>Deserts ..... 17 / 34</p> <p>Jordan Valley ..... 23 / 38</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Agaba 29 per cent.</p>		<p>17:35 ..... London (RJ)</p> <p>17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>18:05 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)</p> <p>18:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)</p> <p>18:30 ..... Vienna (RJ)</p>		<p>14:15 ..... Cairo (MS)</p> <p>15:30 ..... Riyadh (SU)</p> <p>01:00 ..... Bucharest (RO)</p>		<p>Upper/lower price in Jds per kg</p> <p>Apricot ..... 350 / 350</p> <p>Banana ..... 300 / 400</p> <p>Banana (Mekranian) ..... 350 / 350</p> <p>Beet ..... 300 / 350</p> <p>Cabbage ..... 200 / 200</p> <p>Carrot ..... 200 / 200</p> <p>Cauliflower ..... 200 / 200</p> <p>Cucumber (large) ..... 80 / 40</p> <p>Cucumber (small) ..... 140 / 30</p> <p>Eggplant ..... 130 / 30</p> <p>Garlic ..... 350 / 450</p> <p>Leamon ..... 700 / 600</p> <p>Marrow (large) ..... 130 / 70</p> <p>Marrow (small) ..... 200 / 200</p> <p>Onion (dry) ..... 130 / 80</p> <p>Onion (green) ..... 140 / 30</p> <p>Oranges ..... 400 / 350</p> <p>Peaches ..... 540 / 400</p> <p>Pears ..... 420 / 350</p> <p>Plum (red) ..... 350 / 250</p> <p>Pepper (red) ..... 140 / 30</p> <p>Pepper (green) ..... 140 / 30</p> <p>Potato ..... 180 / 120</p> <p>Sweet Melon ..... 210 / 160</p> <p>Tomato ..... 60 / 30</p> <p>Watermelon ..... 30 / 20</p>	
<p><b>PROGRAMME TWO</b></p> <p>12:00 ..... Olympics</p> <p>12:40 ..... Les Aventures de Joe</p> <p>13:10 ..... Documentary</p> <p>13:30 ..... Marc et Sophie</p> <p>13:40 ..... News in French</p> <p>13:45 ..... Le Cirque</p> <p>13:50 ..... News in Hebrew</p> <p>14:00 ..... News in Arabic</p> <p>14:10 ..... Acropolis Now</p> <p>14:20 ..... Mr. Bean</p> <p>14:30 ..... Tex</p> <p>14:40 ..... News in English</p> <p>14:50 ..... Olympics</p> <p>15:00 ..... Oscar Film: "The Happy Ending"</p>		<p><b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b></p> <p><b>NIGHT DUTY</b></p> <p>AMMAN:</p> <p>Dr. Youssef Al Faqih ..... 657900</p> <p>Dr. Subeul Tannous ..... 898903</p> <p>Dr. Youssef Rashad ..... 896301</p> <p>Dr. Adnan Zaghoul ..... 896140</p> <p>First pharmacy ..... 661912</p> <p>Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336</p> <p>Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055</p> <p>Narounkha pharmacy ..... 623672</p> <p>Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730</p> <p>Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945</p> <p>Shurciani pharmacy ..... 637660</p> <p>BRID:</p> <p>Dr. Jamal Habbous ..... (—)</p> <p>Al Shams pharmacy ..... (273825)</p>		<p><b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b></p> <p><b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b></p> <p>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05) 5220-3, where it should always be verified.</p> <p><b>ARRIVALS</b></p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>06:00 ..... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)</p> <p>06:30 ..... Doha</p> <p>10:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)</p> <p>10:35 ..... Agaba (RJ)</p> <p>10:35 ..... Muscat, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>10:35 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)</p>		<p><b>DEPARTURES</b></p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</p> <p>08:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)</p> <p>09:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)</p> <p>12:00 ..... Vienna (RJ)</p> <p>12:45 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)</p> <p>13:00 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)</p> <p>13:05 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)</p> <p>13:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>13:55 ..... London (RJ)</p> <p>21:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)</p> <p>21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>22:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>22:45 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)</p> <p><b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b></p> <p>10:30 ..... Beirut, Rome (AZ)</p>			
<p><b>CHURCHES</b></p> <p>St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swfileh, Tel. 810740</p> <p>Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785</p> <p>St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590</p> <p>Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440</p> <p>De la Salle Church Tel. 661757</p> <p>Terrassians Church Tel. 623641</p> <p>Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543</p> <p>Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331</p> <p>Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261</p> <p>St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751</p> <p>Assam International Church Tel. 683326</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295</p> <p>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 649322</p> <p>Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675091</p>		<p><b>EMERGENCIES</b></p> <p>Food Control Centre ..... 637111</p> <p>Civil Defence Department ..... 661111</p> <p>Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341</p> <p>Rescue ..... 199</p> <p>Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777</p> <p>Fire Brigade ..... 891228</p> <p>Blood Bank ..... 771321</p> <p>Highway Police ..... 843402</p> <p>Traffic Police ..... 896390</p> <p>Public Security Department ..... 630321</p> <p>Health Complaints ..... 605890</p> <p>Price Complaints ..... 661176</p> <p>Water and Sewerage ..... 897467</p> <p>Complaints ..... 897467</p> <p>Amman Municipality ..... 787111</p> <p>Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121</p> <p>Overseas Calls ..... 010230</p> <p>Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101</p> <p>Repairs ..... 661101</p> <p>Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101</p>		<p><b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b></p> <p>10:30 ..... Beirut, Rome (AZ)</p>					



## Abul Ragheb tours oil, mineral explorations, urges faster electrification of rural areas

**TAFLEH (J.T.)** — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb Monday concluded a two-day tour of the southern regions of Jordan to inspect prospecting for oil and natural gas.

The exploration work is being conducted at the southern region of the Dead Sea by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and foreign companies.

The minister also inspected the exploration for mineral resources — copper and manganese — conducted by NRA at Wadi Khaled and Wadi Araba, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Accompanied by Mohammad Arafat, director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and other officials, the minister was briefed on JEA work of supplying power to a number of remote regions, modernising a number of new networks and setting up electric pylons to replace those damaged by winter storms.

The minister said that he inspected the Central Thermal power plant in Aqaba and the maintenance of pylons and networks hit by the winter storms.

Mr. Abul Ragheb urged the concerned parties to speed up work on the electrification of areas within the local council boundaries in the southern regions of Jordan.

The minister heard briefings on the electrification projects in Eilat, Taybeh, Sadaqa, Rajef, Wadi Mousa and Shobak.

According to Mr. Arafat, plans have been drawn up for the electrification of Shaitam, Qadeisib and other rural regions. Earlier this month, the minister recommended that the government set up a national oil company to help develop natural resources and market minerals.

The proposal was contained in a detailed report submitted to the cabinet which gave a full picture of the oil and energy situation in the Kingdom and outlined the various energy problems facing the private and public sectors.

In a bid to step up exploration for oil, Jordan on July 15 granted the South Korean Hanbo Energy Company a six-year concession to prospect for oil and natural gas in the Kingdom. The production-sharing agreement covers nearly 22,000 square kilometres of land at Al Risha and Sirhan areas in the north and east.

Under the terms of the agreement, Hanbo will spend up to \$17 million in exploration.



King visits armed forces

**AMMAN (Petra)** — His Majesty King Hussein visited Monday the Armed Forces general headquarters where he was received by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants, including the Chief of Staff of the Royal Air Force, King Hussein met with Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces. Part of the meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff assistants, the air force chief of staff and the inspector general.

## Queen visits villages, discusses needs, distributes books

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Monday the villages of Deir Al Khaf, Al Jbeiyeh, Al Rifa'iyat, Al Qasem and Abu Al Farh in Al Mafrqa governorate, meeting villagers and discussing their development needs.

During the visit the Queen also inspected Deir Al Khaf's health centre and laid the foundation stone for a new one which the Ministry of Health is building. Her Majesty stopped briefly at a village's home where she met with a group of women who displayed their handicrafts and discussed their needs and aspirations with the Queen, according to a foundation press release.

Her Majesty donated educational books and games to the villages' children and while the Ministry of Social Development distributed 30 tonnes of flour and 100 cartons of oil to needy families in the area. GUVS, the General Voluntary Union for Voluntary Societies donated food, blankets and other relief aid to 75 needy families, the release said.

A series of measures have been recently adopted to upgrade services and meet the development needs of Al Mafrqa villages. The Ministry of Social Development has included the villages of Al Mafrqa governorate in the "Productive Families Programme" and is to start training courses in home economics and typing for women and to establish two local community development centres.

In addition, the Ministry of Health will establish a health care centre in Al Jbeiyeh and another in Abu Al Farh and has plans to expand and upgrade the one in Al Rifa'iyat village.

The Ministry of Education will also add new classrooms to the villages' school buildings and improve available facilities, according to the release.

Al Mafrqa area, which is primarily agrarian, will also be included in the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Quality of Life Project 1993 expansion plan. The project is targeted towards improving the quality of life of families and communities through the implementation of integrated socio-economic schemes.

Accompanying the Queen on the visit were the Ministers of Public Works, Health and Social Development; the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Education and Mrs. Inam Mufri, the President of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

## Possibility of a regional water council to be debated at ESCWA water meeting

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) is meeting Tuesday to coordinate programmes undertaken by regional and Arab organisations in water-related fields.

Participants in the meeting to be held at ESCWA offices in Amman will discuss several issues pertaining to remote sensing as a technique for discovering water resources in the region of western Asia, prospects for establishing a regional water council and training of personnel in water fields.

ESCWA sources said means of rationalising water consumption, which will be discussed later this year at a general conference, will be reviewed by the participants.

Attending the meetings will be representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) water research centres in Arab countries and delegates representing the Arab governments.

## Jordan's bishop urges world to promote peace

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The first-ever Jordanian Bishop appointed by the Vatican to serve outside Jordan made an appeal Monday to the world community to promote the Middle East peace process and save the region from the scourge of war and violence.

The 52-year-old Bishop, Fuad Twal, from Madaba, made the statement while preparing to take up his new post in the Tunisian capital.

He said that the Arab countries positive step towards attaining peace should draw an equal response on the part of Israel, while the world community ought to take a back seat.

Bishop Twal who was assigned the Tunis mission in May said that the Middle East region is in dire need of durable peace and an end to the vicious circle of violence. The fact that the Vatican appointed him as Bishop of Tunis, reflects the Holy See's deep appreciation of Jordan as a country and its wise leadership, said Bishop Twal.

He said that the Vatican adheres to its principles and respects human values. The Vatican has no military or economic interests that could influence its decisions, the bishop added.

Bishop Twal, who is to take up his post on Sept. 9 told the Jordan Times that he has done pastoral work in Jordan but spent most of his earlier career as Vatican delegate to Latin American countries, such as like Honduras and Peru, which have large Arab communities. He also served in

## Arab delegates convene session on refugees, UNRWA criticised for reducing education aid

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Delegation from five Arab countries opened a several day meeting in Amman Monday to discuss the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in the light of continued Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, which is sponsoring the meeting, said that the delegates representing Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt will be discussing Israel's attempts to Judaize the Arab territories, its oppression of Palestinians and the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation.

Emergency aid to the Palestinians under programmes adopted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), will also be discussed as well as Israel's settlement programme and a report on education in the occupied Arab lands.

In an opening address to the first session, the Arab league assistant secretary general Mohammad Al Farra outlined the various regional and international development that have impacted the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He dwelt in particular on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, focusing on Palestinian participation and on the outcome of the Israeli parliamentary elections which brought the Labour government to power. Dr. Farra warned against excessive optimism over the statements of Labour party

leaders connected with the attainment of peace.

Yitzhak Rabin did not offer any concession about Jerusalem and the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians or the return of the Palestinians to the diaspora to their homes and the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, said Dr. Farra. He added that Rabin instead stressed that Israel would keep all strategic positions in order to ensure what he called Israel's security.

Dr. Farra urged the Arab countries to hold on to their national causes and to transcend differences and help the Palestinians regain their land and rights. He also called for international pressure to be exercised on Israel to comply with the requirements of the international legitimacy and implement U.N. resolutions.

Jordan's address was delivered by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Director Adel Irshaid who also urged the Arabs to take a unified position, which, he said, can speed up the establishment of durable peace.

In reviewing Israel's policies and intransigent position with regard to the U.N. resolutions, Mr. Irshaid pointed to the Jewish state's continued inhumane practices against the Palestinian people and the systematic killing of civilians, the deportation of Arab homes, the depredation of Arab youths and delays in visitors to

the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as witnessed at the King Hussein Bridge of the River Jordan.

In reviewing the Israeli settlement programmes, Mr. Irshaid said that Arabs are being evicted so that hundreds of thousands of immigrant Jews can be settled in their place.

Jordan has shouldered its responsibility in protecting the Christian and Islamic holy shrines and continues to do so despite Israel's obstacles, said Mr. Irshaid.

He said that Jordan has offered a great deal in helping the Palestinian refugees who crossed into Jordan in three major waves since 1948. The Jordanian government spends at least \$300 million annually in meeting the basic needs of the Palestinian refugees, thus helping UNRWA in its humanitarian task.

Mr. Irshaid criticised the agency for its reduction of health, educational and other services to the refugees at a time when the need is great due to the return of thousands of refugees to Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Other speeches were delivered by the Syrian, Egyptian, and Palestinian delegates who pointed to the ordeal of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and the need for joint Arab efforts and international community backing to help alleviate the Palestinian sufferings.



Delegates from Arab countries sit down to discuss the Palestinian refugees

## Summit to tackle environmental issues from overfishing to desertification

**AMMAN (Petra)** — At least 80 per cent delegates representing various government ministries, departments and voluntary and charitable societies will participate in a seminar "The Earth Summit, Development and Human Rights" to open here Wednesday.

The seminar, organised by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, will tackle issues that were discussed by the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil last month.

A society statement said that participants will review topics discussed at Rio and the resolutions and recommendations reached at the end of the deliberations as well as the practical steps needed to enforce the agreements.

The statement said that society president Ahmad Obeidat will address the opening session outlining the society's activities and its drive to spread awareness among members of the public

about ways to stem pollution.

The Earth Summit, which ended on June 14, after 12 days of bitter negotiations, called for an international treaty to fight desertification and a global conference on overfishing in the high seas. It agreed on a set of loosely worded principles designed to protect the world's forests.

The conference was called to seek ways to help developing nations grow without harming the environment and was viewed as a significant first step towards addressing many of the environmental and economic ills plaguing the world.

The society and the German foundation have just ended a seminar on traffic and the environment in Zarqa designed to help spread awareness among the local community about means to protect the environment. The seminar focused attention on the condition of vehicles so that they would not emit poisonous fumes, or leak oil. It also cautioned the public against dumping waste on

the roads and urged it to reduce the noise pollution.

The participants, who represented the public as well as the private sector, called on the concerned authorities to draw up national specifications for auto spare parts, to arrange for the manufacture of these spare parts locally, to ensure the minimum amount of fumes are emitted from cars and to enact legislations and laws related to the pollution of the atmosphere.

The seminar called on the concerned authorities to arrange for the employment of modern technology in the fight against pollution, especially on the roads and in residential areas.

The seminar called for a study to be conducted on means of reducing the amount of lead in petrol, training personnel employed in car maintenance, and to conduct feasibility studies on building railways in Jordan to transport goods and passengers to reduce the amount of pollutants.

## 12th congress of children from Arab World Opens today

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor the 12th Arab Children Congress will open today at the Royal Cultural Centre, according to a press release from the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The opening ceremony includes welcoming words by a Jordanian child an Arab child and a representative of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. It also includes musical selections presented by the students of the National Music Conservatory, a folk dance by the National Jordanian Folklore Group and a song by the participating delegations called "The Arab Children Song," the statement said.

The six-day congress will be attended by 34 children representing Sudan, Tunisia, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Palestine and Jordan. During their stay, the children will travel together, attend cultural events and visit a number of historical sites, which will

acquaint them with Jordan's ancient civilisation.

They will also visit the industrial city of Sahab and Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Quality of Life Project in Sweimeh village near the Dead Sea to have an idea about the industrial and developmental progress achieved so far in Jordan.

The 12th Arab Children Congress will end on the 2nd of August by a seminar entitled "A Perspective of the Twenty-First Century: Science and Technology" which will be followed by recommendations and distribution of diplomas, according to the statement.

The Arab Children's Congress, inaugurated in 1980 after the Amman Arab Summit Conference, came as a response to Queen Noor's initiative to bring together talented children from throughout the Arab World and give them the opportunity of learning, sharing experiences and



participating in cultural activities.

Through such interaction, they recognise the contemporary challenges facing the Arab nation, in addition to the mutual cultural and historical ties which unite them as citizens of one homeland and one nation.

A total of 614 children from several Arab countries have participated in the eleven previous Children Congresses since 1980.

## Jordan to attend ARABSAT meeting

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Jordan participating in the general assembly meetings of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (ARABSAT) due to open in Cairo Tuesday to discuss studies on the manufacture of a series of Arab satellites to be launched in 1995.

Minister of Posts and Communications Jamal Saraiab, who

is heading the Jordanian team to the meetings, said that the general assembly will choose one of three firms to manufacture the new generation of Arab satellites and will review difficulties facing the organisation in financing and launching the satellites.

The minister was speaking shortly before his departure for the three-day meeting in Cairo,

leading a team of engineers and specialists from his ministry.

He said that apart from technical matters, the general assembly will endorse the 1991 final accounts, discuss a budget for 1992, and elect a new board for the organisation. The board comprises nine members, of whom five have permanent status.

## Consumer group — rice substandard

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The National Society for the Protection of Consumers received over the last few weeks public complaints about the quality of rice being offered in the local markets. Based on these complaints, which mainly came from housewives, the society undertook a survey, involving a sample of housewives who used to use Egyptian rice before 1979 and those who used it in 1992.

The study found that the quality of rice being sold now is not the same as offered in 1979. A technical committee, formed by the society, examined the rice now being sold here and found that the percentage of broken rice is more than 10 per cent.

Upon examining the standard specification for rice, the study noted that the break rate should not exceed 1.5 per cent for the extra rice, 2 per cent for the excellent rice and 4 per cent for the first class rice.

This means that the rice, now offered for sale at the local markets, contravenes the standard specification of rice. Therefore the society recommended that the rice be mixed with a good quality rice for the time being to ensure that the quantity available in the markets or at the Ministry of Supply warehouses is used.

It further calls on the ministry not to import rice that violate the standard specifications.

## HCST holds congress of foreign scientists

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) is organising the first congress called Arab scientists and technologists abroad on August 17.

The congress, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre and the Jerusalem International Hotel in Amman, will hear a keynote address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and will review papers dealing

with the following: status of science and technology in the region, financing projects in the Arab World; the status of higher education, avenues for transfer of know how, supercomputers, transportation, nuclear technology applications in energy, water and environmental science, and technology manufacturing problems and control and models of pioneering in semi-developed countries.

Participants in the three-day congress will be taken on organised trips to the Dead Sea, the ancient Roman city of Jerash, the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and the Main hot springs.

A spokesman for HCST said that Arab scientists and technologists living in Arab and foreign countries have been invited to participate in the three-day meetings.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Petra appointment endorsed

**AMMAN (Petra)** — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Khalid Mahadin as director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Mr. Mahadin will assume his new duties Monday.

#### Delegation leaves for Beirut

**AMMAN (Petra)** — A Jordanian economic delegation headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad left Amman for Beirut Monday to take part in a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese committee which will start there Tuesday. The committee will discuss in its several-day meetings economic and commercial relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them. It will also discuss the prospect of exchanging industrial and agricultural products and holding industrial products fairs in Amman and Beirut.

#### House to review parties law

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Wednesday morning under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of cabinet members. The agenda of the meeting includes reading a memorandum by the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament on returning the political parties' draft law to the Lower House and a decision by the House Financial Committee approving a draft law on an agreement giving a concession for a Korean company to prospect for oil in the Kingdom.

#### Syrian official arrives

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The director of the Baida, pasture lands and Forests at the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture, Abdul Khaleq Assad, arrived in Amman Monday on a week-long visit to Jordan. Mr. Assad will hold talks with President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Anis Mu'sher and several officials at the society on ways of boosting and bolstering cooperation between Jordan and Syria in the field of establishing natural reserves. The Syrian official will be familiarised with Jordanian reserves which are supervised by the society with the objective of benefitting from Jordan's experience in this field, especially now that Syria is planning to establish a natural reserve in the Syrian desert.

#### State lands discussed at meeting

**ZARQA (Petra)** — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat chaired a meeting Monday at the Zarqa governorate. The meeting, which was attended by the director general of the lands and survey department, the mayors of Zarqa and Ruseifa and other officials, discussed issues related to state lands in the Zarqa governorate. Dr. Tubeishat stressed at the meeting the need to issue urgent recommendations that might resolve problems pertaining to the state lands. He said the municipalities of Zarqa and Ruseifa are facing many problems as a result of this issue. Speakers at the meeting, included Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki and several members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
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### Maturity wanted

THE WORLD should be relieved that a solution has been found to the latest dispute between Iraq and the U.N. over the inspection of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. People particularly in this part of the world are fed up with wars raging in different corners of the world and would like to see conflicts being narrowed instead of being widened. Especially here in the Middle East, the Arab people cannot afford another military conflagration like that witnessed in the Gulf region last year. Both Iraq and the U.N. Security Council need to consolidate their latest agreement to ensure that another stand-off, like last month's, will no more threaten world peace and security. Of particular concern are the Iraqi people, who have suffered enough already. In the past week Iraqis queued for gasoline and food fearing another eruption of hostilities. As if it is not enough that their children are dying of malnutrition and lack of medicine, from time to time their nerves also are being stretched to the limit. Such kind of situation is insane to say the least and those responsible for it can only be described as insensitive to human suffering and agony.

No matter what right or wrong is involved in the latest dispute — whether it is the West's concern for its oil or for human rights, or whether it is Arab nationalism or national pride — nothing justifies the miseries and continued torture of a whole population. The Iraqi regime has so far abided by most articles of all U.N. Security Council resolutions. It has had no option in fact but to do so. But in return the council should have been expected to ease its pressure on the people of Iraq. The council should give the Iraqis the chance to rebuild their country on a new basis of peaceful coexistence and within the limits of international legitimacy. In the same vein, the Iraqi government is urged not to prolong the crisis for the sake of sloganeering. It, not the West nor the U.N., is responsible for the welfare of its own people. Any prolongation of the Gulf crisis therefore will only prolong the suffering of Iraqis and delay Iraq's reconstruction effort. And the U.S., Iraq's major antagonist, should also recognise that it will not achieve its declared aim of toppling the Iraqi regime through continued strangulation of the Iraqi people. The international community should thus hope that through the effort of the U.N. and the maturity of leaders on both sides that the latest experience will not be repeated.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THOSE WHO demand that we make peace with the Israelis who occupy our land should not demand that we take part in plots and plans to launch aggression on the Iraqi people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that according to the policies of the U.S. administration winning American votes for president Bush seems to be through stepping over the dead bodies of the innocent Iraqi people and it is really horrible to think that winning the votes of the American public is only take place through war and through killing and wounding more people, said the daily. We do not believe that anyone has interest in launching war on the Iraqi people or causing destruction to churches and mosques, children milk factories or bridges and public garden or health centres and schools, said the daily. It said that the lust for war and the hatred of warmongers, can please no one and can help no one win the presidency. Through false claims about the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture building Mr. Bush is trying to present the Iraqis as violators of the international legitimacy, thus invoking U.N. Security Council resolutions for yet another act of aggression on Iraq, added the daily. The Arab masses who are following attempts at arriving at a lasting peace in the Middle East, said the daily, are shocked to find that the American administration is trying hard to impose Washington's domination over the world. The paper voiced total solidarity with the Iraqi people which is facing death and destruction at the hands of the arrogant forces of the world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised a statement by the Turkish prime minister who claimed that the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers belong to Turkey as much as the oil in the Arab countries belong to the Arab states. Tareq Masarweh said that such a statement could not have been issued had the Syrian and Iraqi regimes needed their differences and taken a joint stand vis-a-vis the common threat and common danger. The writer said that Turkey is trying to appear, like Israel and Iran, a third major enemy of the Arab Nation through the backing and the blessing of the United States. He said that the three regional powers are, of course, totally convinced that the Arabs would succumb to their will because of the absence of an Arab force and united stand. The writer said that the Arab Nation is in need of a strong united force to defend its interests and it is time for Baghdad and Damascus to unite their stand and deal firmly with the common threat.

# Scores of political parties to spring into action after approval of new law

This article appeared in the June-July issue of Jordan, which is a bi-monthly review published by the Jordan International Bureau in Washington.

The Lower House of Parliament has passed the long-awaited law that legalises political parties in the country, paving the way for the establishment of several dozen parties that plan to contest the next scheduled parliamentary elections in 1993. Draft laws on political parties and press and publications were at the top of the agenda of the Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary summer session that started in late June.

Among the key issues agreed by the house and the government were the definition and composition of a political party, and ideological and other relationships between Jordanian parties and other Arab, Islamic or international political groupings. The debate focused on the government's draft parties law as it was submitted to the house, and on a modified version incorporating amendments suggested by the parliament's legal committees.

Parties have not operated legally in Jordan since 1957. However, since the parliamentary elections of November 1989, informal political groupings have been allowed to operate, in anticipation that they would form the cores of political parties that will be permitted to operate sometime later this summer.

Over 60 would-be political parties have submitted their applications for licensing by the Interior Ministry, aiming to compete in the 1993 elections. The licences will be processed through a special section recently established by the ministry.

The Muslim Brotherhood is expected to remain, for the foreseeable future, the single strongest political movement, but

well short of a majority in the House. Serious contenders include a newly-established secular centrist Progress and Justice Party led by former Royal Court chief and the King's former political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh. But most observers believe that the centrists will face great obstacles in mobilising support to a country and region accustomed to parties based on ideologies, such as pan-Arabism, Ba'athism, socialism, communism, or politics.

**"The mainstream of the Arab World thinks of democracy as political pluralism and free elections. This is our model in Jordan."**

Islam. "Pragmatism and centrism will be hard to sell to a population used to the sloganeering of the cold war era," said one observer. "The end of ideology has not yet reached Jordan."

Mr. Abu Odeh, now serving as Jordanian ambassador to the United Nations, argues that "we badly need a centrist party, not only in Jordan but all over the region. Ideological parties were bound to be extremist, and we have had these parties for a long time. This was not strange in the cold war era, but now there must be a change of approach."

"The people of the Arab World have no other version of democracy except the Western model. If certain governments and leaders believe otherwise, that is their opinion, but the mainstream of the Arab World thinks of democracy as political pluralism and free elections. This

is our model in Jordan," said the veteran Jordanian politician.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the main force behind the establishment of the Islamic Action Party, an umbrella organisation to group all Islamist and like-minded parties, is expected to clash on ideological, political and cultural grounds with the Progress and Justice Party and other secular parties.

While the Muslim Brotherhood has already established grassroots support over the past 40 years, embryonic secular parties have yet to rally significant support from liberals and moderates, most of whom have never been involved in an organised political party.

**"To many chiefs"**

"We have too many chiefs and too few Indians," a prominent independent parliamentarian commented about the more than 60 parties that have applied for licensing by the Ministry of Interior. "Unless some of these parties unite into a front, they will be no match for the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists in the next election."

The National Charter, endorsed last year by a 2,000-strong Jordanian national congress representing all political trends in the country, launched the formal process of political pluralism and set guidelines for the return to multi-party politics after a gap of nearly three decades.

The strength of the charter, drafted and signed by a diverse 60-member commission appointed by King Hussein, stems from the fact that all participants made compromises on long-held views, and committed themselves to a set of common principles that must be respected by all future governments and all new laws.

King Hussein floated the idea of the charter soon after 1989

anti-government street agitation shocked Jordan, prompting him to revive Parliament and hold the first general election since 1967. Prominent party members were allowed to run as individuals in the poll, in which Muslim Brotherhood candidates and their sympathisers won 36 out of the 80 seats in the House. A year later their candidate became House speaker, and in 1990 five Muslim Brotherhood members joined the government for the first time since Jordan's creation in 1923. Their inclusion in the government was seen as a victory for Jordan's ability to peacefully incorporate major trends in government and to integrate Islamist political sentiment into a pluralistic political system.

**Islamic Action Party**

"The objective of our party is social justice, personal freedoms, a united Arab World, and democratic shura (power-sharing and consultation)," said Mr. Raif Najm, deputy head of the Islamic Action Party. The party is spearheaded by the Muslim Brotherhood and hopes to be an umbrella organisation for all Islamist and like-minded parties.

"Democratic shura means that all parties that win in the elections (i.e. secure a certain number of seats in Parliament) will share in power. Democracy in the West is a dictatorship whereby one party rules at the expense of other parties that win a certain amount of support from the people. We have a broader concept of democracy," said Mr. Najm. "We are lagging behind the West, and if we do not learn their technology we will remain behind. But we should not take everything from them which contradicts our values. We should not accept Western policies that may be against our interests," Mr. Najm said.

The other leading parties are expected to include conservative nationalist Jordanian groups, leftist pan-Arab nationalists and Ba'athists (sympathetic to Syria, Iraq, or both), ex-communists, liberal democrats, centrists, and environmentalists.

Among the centrist parties are the Constitutional Party led by former House speaker Suleiman Arar and the Unionist Democratic Party led by Dr. Jamal Shaer, a prominent political and former

**"Democracy in the West is a dictatorship whereby one party rules at the expense of other parties that win a certain amount of support from the people. We have a broader concept of democracy."**

Cabinet member.

Dr. Shaer is one of several prominent politicians working to merge a handful of smaller centrist parties into a stronger grouping that could compete more effectively against parties on the left and right of the political spectrum. "The aim now is to merge with other parties in order to create a strong, united party, instead of dozens of small, weak parties," he said in a recent press interview.

Among the groups he seeks to merge with are the Unionist Liberals, the Jordanian National Democrats, the Arab Unionists, and the Democratic Forum. The Jordanian nationalist par-

ties include Abd (Conventant), led by Abdul-Hadi Majali, a former police chief and a leading member of one of Jordan's biggest tribes.

Sultan Hattab, a controversial journalist who made headlines by giving an interview to Israel television in Madrid last year, has already announced the setting up of a "Jordanian Greens Party." Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, an independent member of Parliament, has established another conservative party called "Al Umma" (the nation).

Observers agree that at the end of the day the main political battle will be between the fundamentalist Islamists and the pragmatist secularists, regardless of their political labels. The government and the regime are maintaining a strict silence on the issue but are believed to favour the secularists who are helplessly divided despite the common challenge represented by the Islamists.

The results of three recent elections in Jordan clearly indicate the open nature of the system, and the intense political competition underway between the main groups. Candidates of the Islamist movements won 72 per cent of the votes cast for the 80-member student council at the University of Jordan, but municipal council elections in the northern city of Irbid saw the Islamist bloc trounced, with 11 of the 12 seats going to a "reformist bloc" comprising traditional community leaders and technocrats. Nationwide polling for the administrative committee of the land transport and mechanics union resulted in a massive win by the reform-oriented liberals and centrists, with Islamist candidates taking just nine of the 77 posts.

Rami Khouri is on a four-week leave.

## Yemen expands educational opportunities for girls

A project in Yemen will increase girls' access to education, especially in rural areas, and lay the foundation for improving the quality of education in grades six through 11. A credit of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 14.5 million (\$19.7 million) from the International Development Association (IDA) will help finance the project.

Almost all Yemeni boys are enrolled in school, but only about two in five Yemeni girls are enrolled. According to Alfonso de Guzman, a World Bank staff member who helped the government prepare the project, specific steps need to be taken to encourage families in rural areas to send their daughters to school.

For cultural reasons, many families send their daughters to school only if girls are taught in classrooms that are separate from boys. So hundreds of classrooms for girls will be added to existing schools.

Families are also reluctant to send girls to schools if lessons are taught by men. To help overcome this cultural obstacle to girls' education, the government is taking several steps to recruit more female teachers.

To strengthen the entire education system, the government will train up to 6,000 teachers through a "distance" education programme. Television, radio and other media will be used to reach teachers in outlying areas and to offer them training while they hold teaching jobs.

The government will also set a standard, nationwide curriculum, develop textbooks free of gender bias and introduce standardised student achievement tests.

Mr. de Guzman cites pressing reasons for the government to launch the project.

— The student population has increased tenfold over the past 20 years, overburdening the existing educational system.

— Since the Gulf crisis started in August 1990, about 750,000 Yemenis have returned from neighbouring Gulf countries where they held a range of jobs. The influx has exacerbated existing housing, health and unemployment problems, and their estimated 200,000 children have further swelled the ranks of the scho-



Schools, like this one under construction in Yemen, will have separate classrooms for girls

choice but to terminate the expatriate teachers' contracts, leaving a severe dearth of qualified teaching staff. In order to fill the vacuum, recent high school graduates have been substituting temporarily for qualified teachers.

— There is widespread interest in providing education for girls, particularly in rural areas where their educational opportunities have traditionally been limited.

Mr. de Guzman points out that the Republic of Yemen (Yemen) was formed on May 22, 1990. The new republic united the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY). The two countries had strikingly different economies, with YAR's system based largely on market principles and PDRY's system on centralised planning. Also the PDRY had a higher school enrolment for girls than did the YAR, and the need is seen to spread this higher enrolment countrywide.

The government will begin implementing the project at a time when the country is suffering from the effects of the Gulf war which aggravated the already onerous task of merging the two governments. The war also

harmed the fragile economy of Yemen.

Before the war, Yemenis working in neighbouring Gulf countries had sent home remittances of over \$1 billion annually providing the country with one of its chief sources of income over the past 15 years and its main source of foreign exchange.

An estimated \$400 million has also been lost from trade and service arrangements with countries in the region, and tourism which had grossed \$45 million a year, has dropped off dramatically. Grants and concessional loans from the former Soviet Union and Eastern European donors have ceased as has much of the assistance from traditional Western sources. Unemployment, already on the rise due to slow economic growth and the large number of people entering the labour force each year, is estimated at 25 per cent. This figure does not include the returning migrant workers.

The population of Yemen after unification was estimated in 1991 at about 12 million, roughly 9 million in the former YAR and 3 million in the former PDRY. The GNP per capita of the new country is about \$550 — World Bank News.

### Lebanese government cracks down before polls

By Peter Smerdon  
Reuters

BEIRUT — Lebanon's Syrian-backed government is cracking down before the first general elections in 20 years to weaken opponents before they stoke fires of popular unrest.

But some diplomats fear such tactics could backfire and lead to insecurity, which — while probably failing to bait the polls — might even delay a Syrian army withdrawal to eastern Lebanon.

"These are worrying times... I hope the Lebanese find a safe path between two disasters. But as has happened before we may end up wandering through them both," said a western diplomat. "We have growing economic pressure and political unrest over the elections and withdrawal... I doubt we will see a return to civil war. But I fear that blood will flow in the near future."

A top Lebanese security officer, who declined to be named, agreed. "I expect some violence in the weeks ahead," he said. "The difficulty is I don't know from which side it will come."

Lebanese soldiers overnight escorted Samir Geagea, head of

the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces (LF), out of his Beirut headquarters complex after it was seized by troops on Saturday.

Mr. Geagea, the most active opponent of plans for elections in August and September, condemned the takeover of his Karantina war council as pressure against parties opposed to the polls.

Hundreds of his supporters demonstrated on Saturday at the seat of Lebanon's Christian Maronite patriarch north of Beirut. Four were hurt when security forces fired to disperse crowds.

The army said it was a previously-agreed measure and part of a government campaign to extend its own authority at the expense of several parties, including some which support the elections.

Mr. Geagea and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir head the opposition to elections, arguing they cannot be free before Syrian troops leave Beirut and other areas for eastern Lebanon.

The opposition also includes followers of exiled Christian rebel General Michel Aoun and

General Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which holds Israel's self-declared "security zone" buffer strip in the south.

Mr. Geagea last month lost a fight to head the Falange party, Lebanon's largest Christian political party, which has since failed to throw its full weight against the general election.

The government says Lebanese troops will provide security for the polls. President Elias Hrawi is determined that they take place as scheduled on August 23, August 30 and September 6.

The elections were set in three stages — northern and eastern Lebanon, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and the south — as the government needs time to move its troops around the country.

The Syrian army is due to leave Beirut and other areas and redeploy to eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in September as part of a pact of put a durable end to Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

But in a warning to the Christian opposition, Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam said that Syrian troops might stay in Beirut beyond September if

the elections were foiled. A one-day general strike called by the opposition in a first step against the polls on Thursday closed down Christian areas. Hundreds of troops were deployed in Beirut in case of trouble.

It was the first stoppage since riots on May 6 by workers enraged at Lebanon's economic decline toppled the government.

"In future demonstrations, the army will not stand by and allow riots like May 6," warned the senior security source.

Diplomats are concerned that the opposition to the elections might link up with popular Muslim unrest at economic crisis as the Lebanese pound hit new lows against the dollar last week.

"It would be a nightmare if it was orchestrated so people take to the streets for political reasons in (Christian) east Beirut and economic motives in (Muslim) west Beirut," a diplomat said.

"The army would have to react... and the government might then find it has to ask the Syrians to keep their troops in Beirut to provide security even after the elections," he added.

### LETTERS

#### Learned publicity

To the Editor:

In your staff reporter Ayman Safadi's article "Minister: No grounds to take legal action against company that allegedly sold AIDS-infected plasma in 1986" (Jordan Times, July 15, 1992), he described the disease as "sexually transmitted." He also tallied the total cases in Jordan to "the total number of registered AIDS cases in the country to 74."

The reporter is mixing between two issues: IV infection, which precedes the clinical picture of AIDS. In addition, he presents the infection/disease as blood products-related in the title and in most of the text then contradicts it by labelling it as sexually-transmitted disease which is confusing.

I would like to draw your attention to the double-edged sword effect of the media on this and similar issues. I am for publicity, but in a scientific way.

The scare tactics without scientific justification might have unanticipated effects. Our reporters as well as our policy-makers need to be educated on the issue before we go to the public.

Dr. W. Shugaidel,  
Health Services,  
Management Programme,  
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P.O. Box 13069,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature or stamp in Arabic script.



## Uproar in House

(Continued from page 1)

Tarawneh claimed that this case "led to the bloody riots in (April) 1989 which in turn brought to us this atmosphere of democracy." It was a clear reference to the riots in the southern part of Jordan in which citizens called for the resignation of Mr. Rifai's government.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Kabariti, who spoke from the deputies' benches and specified that he was speaking as a deputy from Maan, where the riots protesting fuel price hikes began, rejected this assertion and said: "You are removing the dignity of the riots by limiting it to a cement road."

"I say what my mind dictates to me and not my heart. This case is a legal one inasmuch as it is a political one," Mr. Kabariti said.

Jamal Haddad, also an opponent of the committee's recommendation, agreed that personal reasons were behind the panel's decision and pointed out that the debate in the House "is making our country look like it is a school of embezzlement."

However, the main trend in the House was that deputies should not see their indictment as a final absolute verdict in the case since the Higher Council is entrusted with that duty.

Most of the deputies who spoke in favour of indictment stressed that the House would be acting as the prosecutor-general in a legal sense but that the final verdict lies with the Higher Council.

"We are not here to weigh out the evidence," Deputy Salim Zoubi, a lawyer, told the House. "The prosecutor-general's duty, when he finds any evidence and not necessarily sufficient evidence, is to refer the accused to court for trial."

Privately many deputies interviewed by the Jordan Times said that it was clear that the committee was unable to provide evidence that would establish that there was ill intent on the part of the three officials or that anyone of them received money in return for awarding the contract.

"There is no evidence to that effect," one deputy who asked for anonymity said. But he added that many who shared his conviction also felt "that if there is doubt then we should refer it to the court to decide."

## Pressure on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

of weapons inspections.

"Only days ago they had said that they would not accept any inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture building," he said, adding a full inspection would now take place.

He said that although Iraq had given way in the face of continued pressure, it has still failing to comply with Security Council resolutions across the board.

"Pressure would be maintained to ensure compliance, taking whatever steps might be appropriate," he said.

Iraq on Monday renewed its attacks on the United Nations and ceasefire terms.

Its Defence Ministry newspaper said the world body had capitulated to Baghdad's demands and the president's press secretary was quoted as saying the Gulf war ceasefire terms were written by soundbells.

Abdul Jabbar Mohsen wrote in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, "We have nothing else to do but despite them (permanent members of the U.N. Security Council) ... and march ahead, trampling on their decisions and the resolutions of their council under our feet."

"The United Nations' acceptance of Iraq's proposals about the naming of people who will visit it for inspection is a brilliant victory," Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi said at a meeting of the ruling Baath Party in the oil city of Kirkuk.

"This victory has incarnated the solid national will of the Iraqis to ... rally around the leadership of President Saddam Hussein who led the battle ... with great courage and wisdom," Mr. Zubeidi said in remarks carried by the Iraqi News Agency.

The chief of U.N. weapons inspectors said he hoped Baghdad would now take Security Council resolutions seriously.

Rolf Ekeus, who heads the inspectors' special commission, said the Iraqis must show they will comply with the Gulf war ceasefire resolution that allows full access to U.N. weapons experts.

"We hope that Iraq understands how seriously the international community is looking on that resolution," Mr. Ekeus told British radio in London during a stopover.

## After Goebbels diaries, search now is on for Hitler's bones



Joseph Goebbels

BONN (R) — Now that Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels' diaries have sparked fresh interest in the Third Reich, the search is on for Adolf Hitler's charred corpse.

Two former Soviet intelligence agents who claim to have buried the remains of Hitler and his wife Eva Braun have been searching for them in the eastern German city of Magdeburg, Spiegel Television reported Sunday evening.

They and other agents say the remains, whose last resting place is one of the mysteries of the Third Reich, were autopsied three times and reburied at least three times, the report said.

The broadcast followed last week's reports in Britain's Daily Mail newspaper of what it said were extracts from newly available Goebbels diaries. The series ran just before the serialisation of the same diaries by the Sunday Times.

The broadcast by the television arm of the news weekly Der Spiegel said the agents, who broke decades of silence, belonged to a special unit which hoped to take Hitler alive.

Excavations at a former Soviet army base in Magdeburg have not unearthed the remains but agents Ivan Tereshchenko and Ivan Blashehnik are sure they are there, it said.

Spiegel TV said the remains of Hitler and Braun, who killed themselves on April 30, 1945, as Soviet troops were about to capture his Chancellery, were buried in Magdeburg in late 1945.

Victorious Soviet troops sifting the rubble of the Fuehrer's bunker came across the charred bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun in a bomb crater near an emergency exit, the report said.

Soviet leader Joseph Stalin secretly sent his intelligence chief Lavrenti Beria and Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov to view the bodies, said Spiegel TV. Stuffed into a munitions box, the remains were brought to a Soviet field hospital in the Berlin suburb of Buch for autopsies three days later, former agent Michael Milstein said.

"It smelled terribly, it was May, everything was in bloom and these corpses were beginning to rot," he said.

The autopsy report, found in archives of the KGB intelligence service, said Spiegel TV frequently quoted, said Hitler committed suicide with a cyanide capsule and not a gun as often stated.

The agents buried the remains in Buch in early July. But grave-robbing was caught in the area and so the box was reburied in Stendal, north of Magdeburg, when the unit moved there. A second autopsy was soon ordered.

After the second autopsy confirmed the identity of the remains, they were moved again with the agents' unit in late 1945, this time to Magdeburg, where they were buried.

At the end of World War II, Moscow's official position was confused, some Soviet officials claiming that Hitler's body had been found and identified by dental records, but others quickly denied this.

Some Soviet officials later accused Britain of hiding the corpse in its occupation zone. Other rumours had Hitler being shot by German officers while trying to flee through Berlin's Tiergarten Park near the Chancellery.

Meanwhile, Goebbels' stenographer believes the Russians must have found the copies of the Nazi propaganda chief's diaries in a forest at the end of World War II.

Richard Otte, Goebbels' personal stenographer from 1941 to 1945, told Reuters Sunday he churned out 17,000 type-written pages based on notes dictated to him by the Nazi propagandist.

As Russian troops advanced from the east in 1945, Mr. Otte left Berlin by car with colleagues to bury microfiche copies of the diaries in the woods west of the capital of the reich.

"There they were found. The Russians must have heard about it," said the 85-year-old Otte who now lives near Bonn.

Once copied on to glass microfiche plates under Mr. Otte's supervision, the missing diaries dealing mainly with the war period apparently were shipped to Moscow, he said.

He speculated Moscow had not wanted to see them published because they contained embarrassing information, possibly on Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's lack of preparedness for the Nazi German invasion in 1941.

Historians believe the copies from Moscow, now being serialised by the German magazine Der Spiegel and the British Sunday Times newspaper, could fill holes in volumes of the diaries that are kept at the Munich Institute for Contemporary History.

An official at Germany's Federal Government Archives in Koblenz said last week the Goebbels diaries in Moscow had been known about since February 1990, when the head of the Soviet archive gave an interview to Izvestia newspaper.

They were closely studied for the first time in March this year by Elke Froehlich of the Munich Institute, which had received parts of the diaries from east Germany over the years.

Mr. Otte, who accompanied Hitler's chief propagandist everywhere and took daily notes for the diaries, said Goebbels told him he planned to publish them in book form after the war.

"He certainly did not want them to rot away in some secret archive," Mr. Otte said. "As the military situation became critical we were told to put important documents on microfiche so they could easily be removed from Berlin if necessary."

An assistant took over the job of recording Goebbels' thoughts and Mr. Otte started in January

1945 to supervise the glass plate copying of the type-written pages at the ministry.

Many carbon copies of the 17,000 pages were shredded and the originals taken to the Reich Chancellery. They were to be transported to the Nazi dictator's stronghold in the Bavarian Alps, but Mr. Otte did not know if this was ever done.

He said he had little time to shred all the carbon copies and tried to burn some of them in the ministry's central heating stove. A few thousand copies, still bundled together, withstood the fire, were recovered and later published in West Germany.

But Mr. Otte said: "The glass plates were the core."

Goebbels hired Mr. Otte, then a news conference stenographer, in 1941 after realising that writing the diaries himself was taking too much time — up to an hour a day.

Mr. Otte also began typing out Goebbels' old hand-written diary notes, which he said he found difficult to read.

"I always had to be his disposal," the tiny, grey-haired pensioner reminisced, saying he sometimes slept on a couch in his own office at the Propaganda Ministry after working late.

Mr. Otte said he detected no change in Goebbels' business-like behaviour as the war started to go badly for the Nazis. "He always showed self-control. He did not show any fear," he said.

In mid-April 1945, Goebbels took his wife and six children to Hitler's bunker, where they later all committed suicide. Otte last saw Goebbels shortly before Hitler's birthday on April 20.

"He told me: 'Herr Otte, I now relieve you of your duties. Go underground in Berlin and stay away from the fighting. When it is over report to me again,'" Mr. Otte said.

"He seemed optimistic but I don't know how long he believed in such a possibility."

But Mr. Otte did not obey the last order. "It was clear to me that I would never escape the Russians if I stayed in Berlin."

A war refugee, he fled and later moved to Bonn. He became a stenographer in the West German parliament before retiring in 1971.

eratives would from Monday start selling basic consumer goods at controlled prices to combat rising prices.

The government had introduced widespread liberalisation measures in February, including the lifting of subsidies on essential goods like sugar and wheat.

In recent days the prices of some goods shot up by 100 per cent which prompted the government last week to order efforts to strengthen the cooperative movement to help bring prices down.

## Iran offers aid

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Larijani, and called for cultural relations to be upgraded.

Mr. Larijani, who was appointed minister of culture and Islamic guidance earlier this month, told Mr. Suleyman that "Sudan is a good base for the propagation of Islam in Africa."

Sudan, facing fuel shortages

and rising consumer prices, reintroduced petrol rationing Monday and started selling basic goods at controlled prices.

Long queues at petrol stations in the last four days forced the government to impose rationing, almost three months after it had abolished the curbs and lifted petrol subsidies, pushing the prices up by 60 per cent.

Under the new rationing,

motorists are allowed (15 litres) of petrol a day while public transport vehicles get 38 litres at the unchanged price of 110 pounds (\$1) a gallon 3.8 litres.

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted Energy and Mining Minister Othman Abdul Wahab as blaming the shortages on transport problems from Port Sudan, the country's main sea outlet to Khartoum.

Mr. Wahab did not elaborate. In another measure, the government said the country's coop-

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# Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.8940	1.9058
Deutsche Mark	1.5040	1.4947
Swiss Franc	1.3322	1.3253
French Franc	5.0770	5.0425
Japanese Yen	128.10	128.17
European Currency Unit	1.3555	1.3660

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.37	3.36	3.31
Sterling Pound	9.93	10.12	10.12	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.68	9.62
Swiss Franc	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.37
French Franc	10.06	10.18	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.06	4.00	3.93	3.93
European Currency Unit	10.81	10.87	10.87	10.75

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Index	25/7/92	26/7/92
All-Share	140.95	140.05
Banking Sector	105.69	102.38
Insurance Sector	150.29	150.52
Industry Sector	193.23	192.77
Services Sector	177.39	177.27

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling	1.9220/30	U.S. dollars	1.1883/88
One U.S. dollar	1.4840/50	Canadian dollar	1.6770/80
	1.3150/60	Deutsche marks	30.76/80
	5.0100/50	Dutch guilders	1122/1123
	5.3890/3940	Swiss francs	127.68/73
	5.8375/8425	Belgian francs	5.3890/3940
	5.7150/7200	French francs	5.8375/8425
		Italian lire	5.7150/7200
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$358.20/358.50		

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN RENTALS	2,400	1.960	1.960
THE HOUSING BANK	500	2.500	2.500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,803	2.000	1.950
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	29,497	2.910	2.850
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	23,033	1.140	1.150
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	7,184	3.070	3.080
SECURITIES PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	20,193	3.080	3.170
NET EARNINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	97,250	3.100	3.100
AMMAN BANK	9,040	134.000	133.000
JORDAN FRANCH INSURANCE	123	2.450	2.450
TABARUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	2,650	2.450	2.450
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	438	1.250	1.270
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	8,850	4.000	4.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	49,150	1.330	1.330
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	110,057	1.860	1.870
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	270	0.260	0.270
RECENTLY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1,402	0.960	0.970
PEPSA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	6,780	0.930	0.930
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	3,460	0.680	0.690
AMMAN POWER CONVERTING & TRADING	4,057	1.520	1.500
JORDAN BANK	3,432	2.450	2.470
AMMAN ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	50,433	7.650	7.600
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	48,048	9.400	9.350
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	62,308	4.830	4.820
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	44,949	4.650	4.650
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	18,483	8.650	8.650
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	44,713	3.300	3.350
THE JORDAN WOODWORKING	16,204	7.900	7.100
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	18,274	4.450	4.450
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,474	0.730	0.760
AMMAN CENTER FOR PLANTS & CHEMICALS	224,607	2.890	2.910
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	5,500	0.640	0.670
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4,960	4.100	4.130
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	39,430	13.300	13.350
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	3,900	3.800	3.800
AMMAN INDUSTRIES	3,340	3.100	3.100
WOLFE INDUSTRIES	160	1.470	1.480
SPINNING & WEAVING	1,672	3.060	3.120
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	42,924	6.460	6.450
JORDAN GULF-CEMENTALS	12,600	3.440	3.440
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	60,791	1.360	1.340
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	2,163	1.770	1.730
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	15,546	0.470	0.460
UNIVERSAL WOODWORK INDUSTRIES	204,078	4.050	4.070
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	236,221	2.060	2.140
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	24,950	0.300	0.320

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**TOKYO** — Tokyo shrugged off a discount rate cut to slump to a new six-year closing low. The Nikkei average ended down 124.45 points at 15,373.34.

**SYDNEY** — The market closed around its lows after Tokyo shares failed to rally. The All Ordinaries closed 3.3 points down at 1606.3.

**HONG KONG** — Overseas sellers wiped out local bargain hunters and the Hang Seng closed near its intraday low of 108.37 points at 5,664.39.

**SINGAPORE** — Share prices retreated at the close on profit taking after a sharp rise in early trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index ended up 21.03 points at 1,422.34.

**BOMBAY** — A special court ruled in favour of a Bombay stock exchange petition on unfreezing shares. The BSE Index leapt 125.81 points to 2,804.15.

**FRANKFURT** — The Dax wiped out an early dip to the last hour of trading to end up 7.67 at 1,618.09.

**ZURICH** — Wall Street's firmer opening helped industrials recover losses. The SPI index rose 0.2 to 1,113.0.

**PARIS** — The start of the August trading account coincided with a slight easing of recent pessimism to lift prices higher. The CAC-40 Index rose 20.73.

**LONDON** — Shares languished under a cloud of gloom about the economy. The FTSE 100 index fell 29.2 points to 2,348.0.

**NEW YORK** — Blue chips were firm in slow morning trade. The Dow was up 5.95 at 3,291.66 at 1550 GMT.

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## Building data tears down general belief about Amman's growth

Following is the first of a three-part article about the recent construction boom in Amman.

**By Samir Shafiq**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — A total of 6,290 construction permits were issued by the Greater Amman Municipality in 1991. This record number of licences will be surpassed this year as 3,840 permits, or 61 per cent of the 1991 total, were issued in the first half of 1992.

According to new statistics prepared by the municipality, a total of 35,737 licences for various construction purposes were issued from January 1985 until the end of June 1992. The lowest annual volume was 3,262 licences issued in 1987.

Showing that 10,130 permits were issued during the past 18 months (1991 and 1992), or about 28 per cent of the total permits issued since 1985, the statistics reveal that construction was high in the eastern and southern regions of Amman.

The areas where construction was mostly performed were in Al Nasr and Al Quesmeih regions, for which 3,257 and 3,165 licences have been issued respectively since 1985.

During the first half of 1992, Al Quesmeih topped Amman's 20 regions as a total of 436 construction licences were issued for that part of the capital. Al Nasr was second as the licences issued to that "light industrial" section of the city totalled 402.

Al Quesmeih was Amman's main region of construction during 1991 and 1990 as it led all other areas with 635 and 512 permits respectively. Al Nasr was the capital's major construction area in 1989, 1988 and 1987 when 416, 523 and 306 construction licences were given respectively.

Al Nasr comprises Jabal Al Nasr, Wadi Al Rimam and other sections in eastern Amman while Al Quesmeih comprises Al Raqem, Abu Alanda and al Juweideh in southern Amman.

Adjacent to the east of Al Quesmeih lies another region called Khreibt Al Souq where construction was strong with 410 licences in 1986. Although the number declined over the next few years, the number of permits shot up again to 335 in 1991

and reached 209 permits over the past six months.

Northern Amman also underwent a remarkable construction activity, especially in Tla Al Ali where, since 1985, a total of 2,922 licences were given to landowners.

Tla Al Ali, which ranked third after Al Nasr and Al Quesmeih in the total number of licences since 1985, was in second place in 1991, with 605 licences. During the first half of 1992 only 293 licences were given to build in Tla Al Ali.

Construction in Sweileh, an area in northern Amman, was moderate as only 215 permits were issued for that zone during the past six months, compared to 352 permits issued during 1991. Since 1985, construction licences for Sweileh totalled 1,968.

The suburbs of Abu Nasir received 14 construction permits in 1991 (only five in the past six months) and, hence, was the region of lowest construction activity. However, construction in Shafa Badran, which is adjacent to Abu Nasir in northern Amman, was increasing steadily as the number of permits have gone up each year for that area, reaching 100 permits in 1991.

In the past six months, 52 construction licences were issued to landlords in Shafa Badran.

The centre of Amman fared well, except for the downtown where over the past seven years only 316 permits were approved. Construction licences in 1991 stood at 48, while in the first six months of this year only 26 licences were issued to build in downtown Amman.

The Basman region, an area comprising Al Nuzha, Wadi Al Haddadeh, Al Qusour and northern and southern Al Hashemi, was given 2,814 building permits from 1985 until June 30, 1992.

Throughout the last seven and a half years, the Basman region has ranked among the top five most active construction areas of Amman's twenty sections. Since January of this year, 313 permits were given to this part of the capital.

Construction in Bader, an area which includes Nazzal (south east of Amman) led all building activities in Amman from 1985 until 1989 but, since 1990 other areas of Amman grew faster, pushing the Bader region down to the sixth or even seventh place. Bader received 338 permits in 1991 and was given 219 permits in the past six months.

## S. Arabia denies flooding oil market

**NICOSIA (R)** — Saudi Arabia Sunday denied Iraqi accusations that it was flooding the international oil market and driving down prices.

"The kingdom has nothing to hide or be afraid of because it declares its positions frankly and implements them without fear," Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told the Saudi Press Agency.

**Iraqi Oil Minister Usama al Hidi** told his government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah that Saudi Arabia was losing about \$3 million a day by producing too much oil, while the United States and other Western oil consumers were benefiting.

Sheikh Nazer said this did not "match the information coming from the market itself" where oil price stability since April proved supply and demand had been balanced.

"This does not demonstrate an increase in production as the average price for a barrel rose from \$16.51 in March to \$20.19 in June which refutes the Iraqi minister's claim," he pointed out.

Baghdad has been hounded from exporting oil since its invasion of Kuwait by United Nations sanctions. It has so far rejected tough U.N. terms to resume limited oil sales to buy food and medicine and pay Gulf war reparations.

But this time it was not so and the oil came earlier than most pundits expected.

Mr. Barker and other economists said one reason behind the BOJ's aggressiveness was a desire to restore faith in the government's handling of the economy which appeared to hit a low Friday.

Tokyo stock prices tumbled on Friday to a six-year low for the second time in a week. The key Nikkei index closed at 15,497.79, 60 per cent below its all-time high of 38,915.87 on Dec. 29, 1989.

Share prices ended Monday morning stronger but off the early gains that came on news of the cut. Afternoon trade saw prices fall back.

Senior policy planners, including Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, met Friday night to discuss how to help the stock market but were unable to agree on any fresh proposals.

Fioaose Minister Tsutomu Hata did his best to see that the rate cut was interpreted correctly, telling a news conference the share market would view the move positively.

While the BOJ action might have averted sharp stock declines, many observers doubted if a half-point cut would produce any meaningful lift for the domestic economy.

Hidehiro Iwaki, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute, said the prospects for recovery depended on the banks which had cut back lending. He said slightly lower rates would not make them more willing to do so.

Most economists expected the BOJ to lower rates again before the end of the year, if for no other reason than to comfort Japan's stock market.

A U.S. official said Monday the United States welcomes the Bank of Japan's cut in its discount rate but wants Tokyo to take fiscal steps to boost its economy and ensure Japan acts as an engine for world recovery.

"We welcome the step and think it will make a positive contribution to Japan's performance," Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Olin Wethington told a news conference in Tokyo.

Mr. Wethington was in Tokyo for two days of meetings, beginning Tuesday, to hammer out a report on progress in the structural impediment initiative (SII) aimed at removing barriers to trade and investment and reducing the huge trade imbalance between the two nations.

Japan needed to take fiscal measures to stimulate its economy because slowdown was acting as a drag on imports and so was a key factor behind the recent surge in Japan's current account surplus, Mr. Wethington said.

## Tokyo cuts discount rate

**TOKYO (R)** — The Bank of Japan (BOJ) stepped forward with uncharacteristic boldness Monday to cut the discount rate half a point to 3.25 per cent to bolster confidence in the government's handling of the economy.

Economists said the cut would provide an important psychological boost to the sagging stock market, but would offer the economy little serious stimulus.

"They said yet another cut could be round the corner."

"We can't expect the economy to get much of a lift from this rate cut," said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute.

The discount rate, the rate the BOJ charges private banks for funds, is the nation's most important interest rate and is widely considered a key indicator of monetary policy.

Monday's cut was the fifth since July 1991, when the discount rate was six per cent, but the timing of this reduction was its most important feature.

Economists said it came earlier than expected and was probably timed to defuse fears of the stock market plunging this week amid worsening corporate confidence.

"Today's cut shows BOJ is taking the slowdown seriously," said Geoffrey Barker, economist at Baring Securities (Japan).

Historically, the BOJ has waited as long as possible before lowering the discount rate. Many here had expected the bank to again wait for conclusive evidence that the economy was sinking.

But this time it was not so and the cut came earlier than

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## ANC calls for trial of police officers over death charges

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The African National Congress demanded Monday that suspected police officers be put on trial after one of the country's leading pathologists charged that police routinely torture and kill suspects.

Dr. Jonathan Gluckman triggered a major controversy by saying he had evidence police killed scores of prisoners. He said he had performed post-mortem examinations on some 200 people who died in police custody. "Ninety per cent of the people in these files, I am convinced, were killed by police," he said. "I have constant evidence of police handling people in a vicious manner. My impression is they are totally out of control. They do what they like," he told local newspaper Sunday.

The ANC, the main black opposition group, demanded an independent investigation and swift action against police. "It is imperative that a full, public independent investigation be conducted, and the police officers directly and indirectly involved, as well as their station commanders, be brought to justice," the ANC said in a state-

ment. The charges come at a time when the government and its security forces are under fire for alleged violations of human rights and failure to stop violence in black townships that has claimed thousands of lives.

Police Minister Hernus Kriel ordered an investigation into every death in police custody during the past two years.

"The government regards these allegations in a very serious light and will do everything possible to deal with the issue," Mr. Kriel said in a statement.

Dr. Gluckman said he went public after President F.W. de Klerk, Mr. Kriel and other top government leaders failed to respond to pleas for action to stop the alleged killings.

Dr. Gluckman said Monday he received two telephone death threats.

Anti-apartheid groups such as the ANC have long accused the police force of failing to properly perform their duties and of being unaccountable.

Police have repeatedly denied accusations they instigate violence in black townships to destabilise the black opposition

movement. Dr. Gluckman's allegations follow last week's report by British experts that accused police of incompetence in handling the June 17 Boipatong massacre.

The experts, asked to review the police handling of the Boipatong massacre that left more than 40 blacks dead, said improper organisation and a lack of senior officers on the scene and of effective backup forces allowed the massacre to be "perpetrated unhindered."

The killings caused the ANC to pull out of black-white talks on ending white minority rule, plunging the country into its worst political crisis since Mr. de Klerk legalised the ANC and launched negotiations two years ago.

Meanwhile, government officials offered rewards Sunday for people who turn in illegal firearms and explosives before a crackdown next month on weapons violators.

The announcement by Mr. Kriel and Justice Minister Kobbie Coetzee said the planned crackdown showed the government's determination to halt chronic vio-

lence in black townships.

The African National Congress (ANC) has demanded government steps towards halting the violence and ending white minority rule.

But it appeared unlikely the ANC would accept the weapons crackdown as a significant step. It previously has criticised similar moves as an attempt to disarm its supporters, leaving them prey to alleged security force misconduct and attacks by the rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

Under the plan announced Sunday, tough new laws on illegal use and possession of weapons would take effect on Aug. 1. Until then, the ministers said, people can turn in automatic rifles, explosives and other illegal weapons and receive rewards of up to 400 rand (\$140).

Police have made several arrests in recent weeks of people possessing automatic weapons, ammunition and articles of police or military uniforms.

These measures, in addition to other initiatives, are proof of the government's determination to clamp down on criminals and those involved in violence," the statement said.



Kijichi Miyazawa

## Miyazawa rules out reshuffle, coalition

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kijichi Miyazawa Monday promised a special parliamentary session to debate electoral reform after apathetic Japanese stayed away in record numbers from Sunday's nationwide polls.

Mr. Miyazawa, buoyed by his party's better-than-expected showing in the elections, also ruled out an early cabinet reshuffle or a formal coalition with centrist allies.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), in power since 1955, won 68 of the 127 seats at stake in the partial upper house polls.

The party, which controls the more powerful lower house of parliament, exceeded its target of 64 but failed to regain its majority in the upper house which it lost three years ago.

Only by wooing centrist allies can Mr. Miyazawa hope to get hills through the upper house, which has the power to delay all legislation apart from the budget.

"I think we're going to see more cooperation with opposition parties on policy matters and in passing legislation," Mr. Miyazawa told a news conference. "Before we think of a formal coalition, we need to create a base of stronger ties."

Mr. Miyazawa, whose nine-month-old government has been bolstered by the election win, ruled out an immediate cabinet reshuffle but left his options open for the autumn.

"I have a good cabinet now, capable of teamwork," he said. "But some LDP party posts are due to end (in October) and I'll have to think about what I'll do then."

Science and Technology Minister Kanzo Tanigawa did not seek reelection in Sunday's race but Mr. Miyazawa said he planned to ask him to stay on in his post.

The prime minister outlined two priorities for parliament in the coming months — overhauling the electoral system and stimulating sluggish economic growth. The Bank of Japan Monday cut the discount rate to 3.25 per cent from 3.75.

News reports said afterwards that the LDP planned to convene a brief special session on Aug. 7 before recessing until late September.

"We've got to work on a supplementary budget for our economic pump-priming package and then there's political reform," Mr. Miyazawa said.

Just two days before the election, share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange slumped to a six-year low, prompting Mr. Miyazawa to announce that his government would introduce additional economic stimulation by mid-September.

"I'd say that (the economic situation) was looking bright," he told the news conference.

## Sarajevo calm; no new word from Gorazde

SARAJEVO (AP) — The commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces arrived Monday in Sarajevo, while Bosnia's warring factions were meeting in London for new talks aimed at ending the bitter war raging across the republic.

Sarajevo was calmer, but there was no new word from Gorazde, 70 kilometres (40 miles) south east, where many were reported starving as a Serb siege neared its 90th day.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported that a Serbian delegation had departed for the London talks to be held under the European Community's special envoy, Lord Carrington.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has said his government would attend but not negotiate because new talks made no sense unless previous agreements were honoured.

Previous rounds of talks have achieved little progress in ending the war that began after Bosnia's Muslim and Croat voted on Feb. 29 for independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, was relatively quiet over the weekend and again Monday. Some shelling of the old town was reported overnight, and fighting was reported in the suburb of Dobrinja near the airport.

Still, streets appeared livelier than they had in weeks. More buses were running and more people were outside. Sarajevo residents still were hurrying through intersections to avoid snipers, but not as fast as they have in past months of fighting.

The U.N. commander of peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia, Gen. Sirhan Nambiar, arrived Monday in Sarajevo for talks with the warring factions.

Asked about the attitude of the warring Serbs, Muslims and Croats, he said: "There is so much that can be done, but I don't think it is being done. Like a ceasefire, for instance."

"We'll keep trying," he said. In Gorazde, there was no word of the fate of an estimated 70,000 residents and refugees from surrounding regions who were reported close to starvation.

A U.N. relief convoy failed the breach the siege Friday and returned to Sarajevo after two vehicles hit mines.

Croatian Radio, citing Bosnian government officials, said Sunday that 50 people — including 10 in Sarajevo — died across the republic in the last 24 hours, and 130 were wounded.

In Germany, more than 2,500 refugees from the Balkan fighting — mostly women, children and elderly Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina — arrived at the west German town of Unna. They rode three Red Cross-chartered trains which picked them up in Karlovac, Croatia.

They were the first among 5,000 refugees Germany agreed last week to accept. More than 200,000 refugees from the war in former Yugoslavia are already in Germany.

About 300 other refugees were stranded on the border between Croatia and Slovenia, with Slovenia refusing their buses entry, said Serbian news reports.

U.N. officials in Sarajevo said a French contingent of 282 soldiers and 44 medical personnel was en route Sunday to Sarajevo from Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital. French, Ukrainian and Egyptian troops in the next few days are to relieve Canadians as U.N. peacekeepers to keep the airport open for relief flights.

Hardest hit Saturday night and early Sunday in Sarajevo appeared to be Dobrinja. Bosnia's Muslim-controlled BH news agency said that Serbs pounded the suburb near the airport in "one of their worst artillery attacks" during the fighting.

Bosnian officials in the capital said that at one point overnight, one shell was landing every 10 minutes in the city's northern section of Kosovo.

In Mostar, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) to the southwest, Bosnian officials said one person was killed by Serb artillery fire.

And in Pale, about 20 kilometres (10 miles) east of Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb leaders opposed to the republic's independence formalised the borders of their self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In London, a Bosnian Serb leader said Monday that he is not optimistic about peace talks scheduled to resume here Monday.

"We still do have hopes that Britain's diplomacy is going to succeed to help us find a political solution to our crisis," Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told a news conference.

"Unfortunately we don't know whether they (the Muslim side) take these talks seriously or not."

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croat leader Mate Boban were also expected in London for the negotiations.

## Russian-French crew heads for Mir station

MOSCOW (R) — The Soyuz TM-15 spacecraft with two Russians and a French researcher on board blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome Monday on a mission to the Mir orbital space station.

Among the cosmonauts' planned tasks was the removal of the defunct hammer-and-sickle flag from the space station's mast — a final blow to what was once a proud Soviet space programme.

Live television showed a perfect liftoff at 10:09 a.m. Moscow time (0609 GMT) from the steppe of Kazakhstan, home to much of the once-mighty Soviet space programme.

The spacecraft was scheduled to link up with the Mir station, in operation since 1986 but badly in need of new equipment, on July 29.

Russian cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoyov, a 44-year space veteran, and Sergei Avdeyev, 36, will deploy new equipment to help keep the station aloft. They are to remain on board until next

January. Frenchman Michel Tognini, 42, trained at the Baikonur space complex, will return next month after completing experiments.

Russian Television said the mission was to include, a lengthy spacewalk, in part to remove the mothballed Soviet hammer-and-sickle flag from one of the space station's masts.

It said the crew was also to install "something more practical" in its place — an engine. Other tasks include tests of radiation levels inside Mir.

Space officials had feared the station might have to be abandoned as equipment ages and its orbit brings it closer to Earth's atmosphere.

But a recent agreement by leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States to release funds for Mir could ensure its future.

The Mir station is currently manned by Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Kaleri who left Earth late last year.

## Column

### Tiresome vandal hounded out of town

SYDNEY (R) — Angry residents in a Sydney suburb set up covert surveillance to catch a gang they believed responsible for puncturing tyres on about 30 cars parked in their street. But captured in the act on video was a voracious Australian cattle dog sinking its teeth into the rubber, a police spokesman said Friday. Its owners have now banished their disgraced pet to the country. Police had sent extra police to patrol the street in Sydney's northern suburbs in a bid to catch the "vandal" after a string of complaints, the spokesman added.

### Pakistan to protect bustard from Arab sheikhs

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani authorities said Sunday they were planning to protect the migratory Honhara bustard from Arab Sheikhs visiting the country for hunting. A spokesman for the National Council for Conservation of Wildlife said a summary suggesting a complete ban on the hunting of the rare bird had been sent to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A ban on Bustard hunting by Pakistanis is already in force but visitors from the Gulf get special hunting permits from the federal government. Bustard trapping is punishable with a fine of up to \$400 per bird. Some bird keepers claim bustard's meat stimulates sex. Tahir Anif, president of the non-governmental Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE), said the society had filed a writ petition in the Sind High Court in Karachi challenging the government's practice of allowing influential visitors from the Gulf to hunt the bird, which comes to Pakistan from Central Asia in winter.

### 'Pregnant women not at risk from VDUs'

LONDON (R) — Working with visual display units (VDUs) does not increase the chances of miscarriage for pregnant women, Britain's health and safety executive reported Sunday. "The results of this new British study are reassuring and back up the earlier studies abroad," Dr. Colin MacKay, chief ergonomist at the agency, said in a statement. "It shows that pregnant women who work, even habitually, at VDUs are not at increased risk of miscarriage." Dr. MacKay said 450 women took part in the study, results of which are published in the British Journal of Industrial Medicine. The statement gave no details of the study.

### Mount Athos monks set to ban all visitors in tax row

ATHENS (R) — The all-male monastic community of Mount Athos, which already bans women, threatened to exclude monks, too, in a tax row. The monks said they would close their doors to thousands of Greek and foreign (male) visitors if the state taxed its property. The Mount Athos leadership said in a letter to Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis that it would not accept guests as of Aug. 10 unless he intervened to exempt their property from taxes. The letter says the monks' requests were ignored by government ministers and "instead of praying in Mount Athos we wander in vain in ministerial corridors and the antechambers of the deaf." The Greek constitution grants the 20 medieval monasteries on the green northern peninsula the right to self-government. Tax or not tax, women are not allowed to set foot on Mount Athos.

### Vanuatu joins television age

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — People crowded around television sets in this tiny Pacific Island nation Sunday to watch the opening of more than the Olympic Games. It was the debut of television itself in Vanuatu. At gatherings in villages or around appliance shop windows in the capital, Port Vila, Vanuatu residents entered the television age watching a live broadcast of the Barcelona Games, the first programme broadcast by the state-owned TV network. Formerly known as the New Hebrides, Vanuatu has a population of 165,000 scattered over 83 islands. Twelve years ago, it won independence from joint administration by Britain and France. Vanuatu has two radio stations but no daily newspaper. Initially, TV programming will be available only on the most populous island, Efate. Most of Vanuatu's islands do not have electricity.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 9 Vietnamese massacred in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Nine ethnic Vietnamese, including a seven-day-old baby, were murdered by unidentified soldiers in Cambodia this week, U.N. officials said. Between 20 and 30 marauding soldiers killed a father and mother and their new-born baby in the bakery they operated in a village near the Vietnamese border, east of the Cambodian town of Kampot. In the same village, a man and four of his nieces and nephews between the ages of seven and 16 were slain by the soldiers, who used guns and knives. The man was disembowelled in the attack, the U.N. said.

### Escobar sets new conditions

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Fugitive drug lord Pablo Escobar set new conditions for returning to jail as Colombian politicians turned their attacks on President Cesar Gaviria Sunday for allowing him to escape. The government said in a statement it had received a telephone call late Saturday from "three well-known citizens" whom it did not name. The intermediaries said they had spoken to Escobar and "he, apparently prepared to surrender, demanded some conditions," it said. However, the government repeated it would only accept Mr. Escobar's unconditional surrender. Mr. Escobar, boss of the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel, and nine of his lieutenants escaped from jail last Wednesday during an uprising against a government decision to transfer them to a military base.

### Reagan denies violating any law

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who according to reports may soon be indicted in connection with the Iran-contra scandal, has denied being a target of investigators and said there was no evidence he had violated any laws. The Washington Post reported Sunday that independent counsel Lawrence Walsh would decide within 10 days whether to seek the indictment of Mr. Reagan and several of his closest advisers on the grounds they criminally conspired in 1986 to cover up part of the scandal. Reagan spokeswoman Catherine Goldberg said in a statement issued in Los Angeles the report was "false and unfounded." "We have been assured by the independent counsel that President Reagan is not a target of that investigation... There is no evidence that President Reagan has violated any law or has been anything less than completely forthcoming," the statement said.

### Mass grave found in Zimbabwe mine

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A mass grave in unused mineshaft may contain the bodies of villagers killed by government troops, news reports said Monday. An unspecified number of skeletons, draped in rotting clothing, were unearthed last week by gold miners at Silobela, 360 kilometres west of Harare, the reports said. In a rare display of candor on alleged atrocities by government soldiers, the state-controlled Herald newspaper carried a front-page photograph of an unidentified miner displaying human remains. The paper said locals believe the skeletons were those of villagers who disappeared during a 5-year campaign waged by the government against rebels in the western Matabeleland province. The campaign ended in 1986.

### Burma receives Polish helicopters

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military junta has beefed up its arsenal with at least a dozen helicopter gunships or troop transporters from newly-democratic Poland, political sources said. The aircraft were seen being transported through the streets of Rangoon on July 10 and are apparently intended for use in the military force's battle against insurgent groups, said the sources in the Burmese capital, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The junta has built up the strength of the national army from about 150,000 in 1988, when it took power by crushing a nationwide pro-democracy uprising, to between 250,000 and 300,000 personnel today, diplomats said. It has begun taking delivery of arms worth at least \$500 million from neighbouring China, thought to include tanks, armoured personnel carriers, patrol boats, artillery, small arms and ammunition, they added.

## Ramos offers to legalise Filipino Communist Party

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos Monday urged congress to legalise the outlawed Philippine Communist Party as a step towards ending South East Asia's longest running Marxist insurgency.

In a state of the nation address, Gen. Ramos also said he was submitting to the legislature for its immediate approval a proclamation granting amnesty to all rebel groups in the country, if they apply for it.

The president, who took office on June 30 after winning May elections, also called on Congress to restore the death penalty to curb what he said was a resurgence of "heinous crimes."

Gen. Ramos asked the legislature to repeal a decades-old law banning the Communist Party "so that (they) will no longer be outlawed but allowed to compete freely, openly and peacefully in the political, economic and social arena instead of their following the path of armed struggle."

"Our goal must be to attain a just, comprehensive, peaceful and lasting resolution to the internal armed conflict that has cost the nation and our people so dearly," he told a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The nation will not make any economic headway for as long as

it is racked by instability, he added.

Gen. Ramos indicated his proposed amnesty programme would cover the Communist New People's Army (NPA), Muslim separatist guerrillas fighting for self-rule on the southern Mindanao Island, and right-wing rebel soldiers linked to coup attempts.

The NPA has been fighting for a Marxist state for 23 years. The previous government of Corason Aquino also considered legalising the Communist Party, which was outlawed by Congress in the early 1950s — but never made any formal proposal to the legislature.

Political analysts said Gen. Ramos's proposal was expected to trigger fierce debates in Congress, especially in the conservative House of Representatives. "Peace is a process. And we must all join hands to bind and heal the conflicts that have so long divided and held us back," Gen. Ramos said.

He said he had ordered his security and legal advisers to review the cases of jailed rebels and recommend to him who could be pardoned or released to help create "a climate for national unity."

"Today we are one of a few countries burdened with the combined weight of Communist insurgency and other rebellions," Gen. Ramos said.

## British cabinet minister toughs out sex scandal

LONDON (R) — National Heritage Minister David Mellor was firmly behind his desk Monday having survived a week of scandal over an alleged affair with a glamorous half-Spanish actress.

Racy tabloid newspapers provided lively revelations about Mr. Mellor's relationship with 31-year-old Antonia De Sancha then clashed with the government of conservative Prime Minister John Major by calling for Mr. Mellor's resignation.

"Mr. Mellor will be at his desk this afternoon," said a spokesman for Mr. Mellor at his ministry, which is responsible for arts, sports and the media.

"He will be going to Barcelona (for the Olympics) on Thursday," the spokesman added.

There were no fresh disclosures in the tabloid press over the weekend about Mr. Mellor, 43,

who spent time with his wife and two children. By Monday an uneasy truce seemed to have been called between the government and newspaper editors.

"Mellor off the hook," was the headline of the top-selling Sunday daily newspaper commenting on the fact of one of the few British political figures to survive a sex scandal.

"Mellor rides out storm," said the Independent.

One of Mr. Mellor's colleagues said: "He seems to have toughed it out. The worst must be over now."

A tabloid newspaper revealed transcripts of bugged telephone conversations between Mr. Mellor and Ms De Sancha a week ago. Since then newspapers have published photos of Ms De Sancha bare-breasted and simulating sex in a film.

## Government offers Clinton briefing on Iraq; Quayle hangs on

SEATTLE (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton said Sunday that government officials offered him a national security briefing on Iraq.

"We'll try to set it up but I think all of us know what the facts are in the Iraq situation," Mr. Clinton said as he headed out of church in Seattle amid a four-day swing to the west coast.

President George Bush spent the weekend huddled with advisers to discuss the Iraqi dispute, which appeared to be resolved when U.N. and Iraqi officials announced Sunday that U.N. inspectors would be allowed to inspect facilities in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Vice President Dan Quayle said he will not relinquish his spot on the Republican ticket and the question is a "closed issue."

"The president has never wavered on this issue, in public or in private. The only people who are bringing this up are my opponents and the media," Mr. Quayle said after a speech to

3,700 people at a Protestant Church in Alabama.

Mr. Quayle has been criticised for frequent gaffes, and the majority of Americans say he should be dropped from the ticket.

Mr. Clinton said he supported President Bush's handling of the Iraqi crisis and agreed with the threatened air strikes against Iraq unless it abided by ceasefire resolutions requiring inspection of Baghdad's war-making machine.

"If the facts as reported are accurate, then he's doing, in my judgement, what has to be done. We have to insist that the ceasefire agreement is honoured," Mr. Clinton said.

The Arkansas governor was heading to California, the nation's most-populous state, which could be crucial to his chances in the fall.

Mr. Clinton has been leading Mr. Bush by a 2-1 margin in public opinion polls, but most analysts expect the margin to narrow by November.

As Mr. Bush has slumped in the polls, rumours have abounded that Secretary of State James Baker would resign as secretary of state to run the Bush reelection effort.

But his top deputy insisted that Mr. Baker would remain at his job "for some time to come."

"I will wager you that, for some time to come, I will be the deputy secretary of state and Jim Baker will be 'the secretary,'" Lawrence Eagleburger said in an interview with the U.S.-based ABC Broadcasting Network.

"I happen to believe that Jim Baker will stay as secretary of state for some long period of time to come, and the Middle East is one obvious reason for that," Mr. Eagleburger said.

"All of this speculation, which Jim has himself tried to put to rest on this trip, I think is a bunch of nonsense," he said.

Mr. Clinton's trip to the west coast has mirrored last week's eight-state bus trip following the Democratic national convention,

with a message of people-first economics and the need for change.

Mr. Clinton was shouted down by a loud anti-abortion activist as he headed into a Baptist Church in Seattle.

"Hypocrite" the man yelled at Clinton, who ignored him. "You call yourself a Christian... but you say you can kill living tissue."

In a rare moment, Mr. Clinton appeared stumped during a late-night television talk show in Seattle Saturday when a man asked him if he supported doctor-assisted suicide. Mr. Clinton, who is known for his love of thoughtful discussions of issues, sat there for a moment.

"I don't know," Mr. Clinton said, asking the man for the facts of his wife's case, who had Alzheimer's disease and committed suicide with the help of Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

"Her mind was everything... thank heavens for Dr. Jack Kevorkian, so she could exit with dignity and humanity," said the

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Those who are interested in having their newspapers delivered to their homes in the morning should contact the Distribution Department, Mr. Samih Abu Hanieh, Ext. 247, at the Jordan Press Foundation between 10:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. Full information including names, addresses and telephone numbers will be needed before the delivery service is provided.